



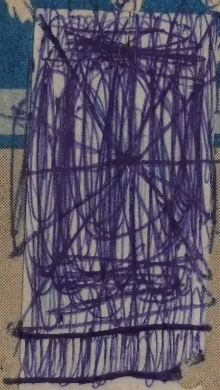
The Long Island

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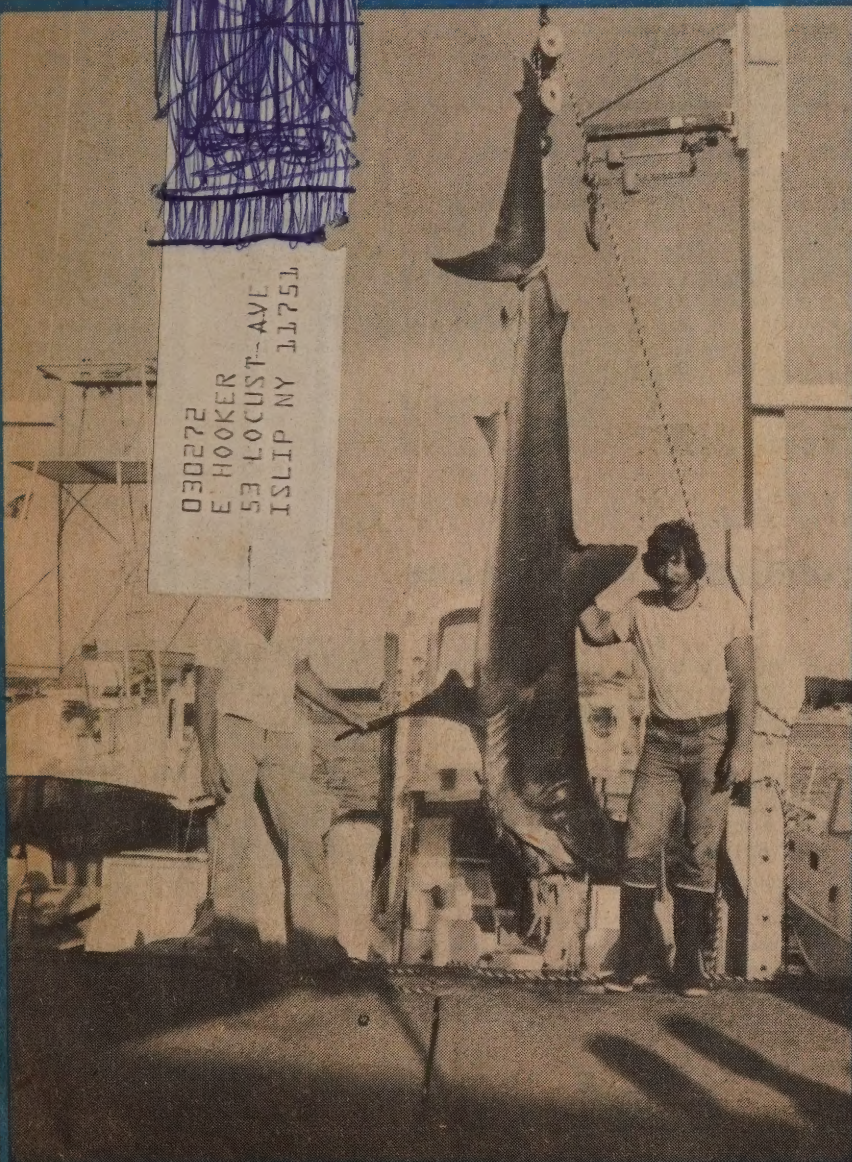
FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

AUGUST 4th, 1977, ISSUE No. 29



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BLUEFISH



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The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 29

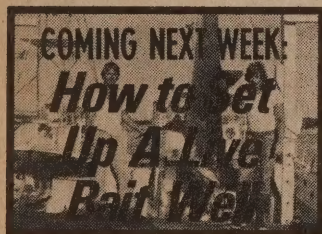
AUGUST 4th, 1977

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About the Cover—

Capt. Dave Kohlus and mate Joe Ritsi with a 490 pound dusky shark being weighed in at Tuma's Tackle in Montauk last month. The big shark was taken aboard the charterboat *Hooker*, and Frank Tuma Jr. said that it was one of the largest dusky's ever to be weighed in at Tuma's. Photo by L.I.F.

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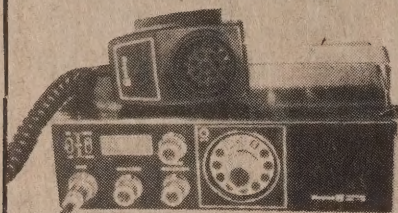
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EDITORIAL

★★

Once Upon A Time

Once upon a time there was a land which was rich with trees. In the air hawks and ospreys circled unmolested. This land was surrounded by water and the few humans that lived on the land had learned to live with the land.

At the seashore there were clams and oysters; mussels and lobsters abounded. The land was wealthy and its ecology was pure. Fish swarmed in the sea around the land and there was plenty to eat.

This land is gone, yet less than twenty years ago there were still wild places close to concentrations of people. In the early morning one could see snakes and game and the unspoiled raw beauty of natural architecture.

This place was Long Island before the changes wrought by civilized man changed the land into what it is today. It is difficult to imagine that less than twenty years ago I lived next to a swamp in central Queens County and that deer, game birds, snakes and trout were found there.

What ever happened to this land of plenty and natural beauty? The Long Island Expressway, State Parks and parkways, housing developments, foolish waterways technology approaches, countless wells and automobiles.

Perhaps it seems to you that our editorial policy is rambling a little far afield. Actually not, because the events that planted the seeds for this editorial come from the sportfishing arena. Many species of fish have been reported to have declined in abundance over the last several decades. Striped bass, kingfish, blowfish, sheepshead, channel bass (which were caught commonly in our waters), and others. Why? We've heard many guesses and hypotheses and some seem to offer some understanding. One of the most significant problems that we have had in local waters that is related to our beloved sport is the decline in baitfish, and this may explain the decline in the predators.

But why should baitfish species decline in numbers? Unfortunately, some prey species tend to be very delicate. For example, sandeels, spearing, and small bunker can not survive too long out of the water. They need well oxygenated clean water. It has been suggested that the activities of man are adversely changing the quality of our water and it is obviously true.

One of the chief culprits appears to be rain runoff which washes along roadways, picking up road salts, oils, and other chemicals from the tires and exhausts of automobiles. This water washes down into storm sewers and into our ocean. It is now thought that road chemicals are a chief cause in the decline of baitfish species. A study is planned to precisely investigate this possibility.

So what! Shall we rip up the roads and send all the people back to Manhattan Island? Hardly practical although probably the best alternative ecologically. No, we can't turn back time, but we can do everything in our power to see to it that the future is as good as it can be!

We wonder, for example, why so many Long Island residents balked at Suffolk County Executive Klein's proposed moratorium on farmland to housing-land conversion. This has been done elsewhere with considerable success. The best example of the successful implementation of the idea was in Great Britain.

Profit is a strong motivation. Sometimes greed precedes common sense. We cannot expect that people will voluntarily avoid a large profit for the sake of posterity. These things must be ordered in order to be effective.

There are, to put it simply, just too many people living on Long Island. We are rapidly over using everything from water to fish resources and if population continues to increase on Long Island, the future could be ecological disaster.

We cannot believe the folly of official policy makers. The economy has been poor. The environment is deteriorating. Still, government is doing everything in its power to promote an increase in the number of building starts. Incredible! The time has come to take a practical long range look at Long Island. We must try to see more than the flow of dollars. We must try to see Long Island as a place to live for our children and our children's children: the fishing, the clamming, lobstering, the beaches, clean wholesome well-water, beautiful waterways to sail on, woods for walking, salt marshes where the wading birds feed at sunrise!

Long Island is overpopulated and although we cannot turn back time to an earlier period we can take positive steps right now to make sure that we keep what we have and that we keep it in good use. Building moratoriums, road construction moratoriums, changes in road maintenance policies, and many other official policy changes designed to upgrade our Long Island home are long overdue.

Justin A. Inguller



Pass It On...

JONES BEACH AND CAPTREE STATE PARK FISHING CLINIC RESUMES: Announcement has been made of the resumption of the Jones Beach and Captree State Park Fishing Clinic after a 2-week recess. Sponsored by the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission and the Captree Bait Station, the sessions will be held — rain or shine — at the Jones Beach fishing piers at 10:00 am and at the Captree Bait Station at 1:00 pm. Topics: August 6, Bluefish and Snapper Fishing; August 13, Surf Fishing - Part I; August 20, Surf Fishing - Part II; August 27, Striped Bass Fishing. The Clinics are conducted by Chester Zawacki, Aquatic Biologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

MECLI MEETING NOTICE: An open public meeting of the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island -(Mecli) will be held Thursday, Aug. 4th at 8:00 pm., At the Bowery Savings Bank, 5100 Sunrise Highway, Massapequa, NY, 2nd floor Meeting Room - Use rear entrance.



Contests & Tournaments

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB — FISHING FESTIVAL: The Freeport Tuna Club will hold its Third Annual Freeport Fishing Festival Tournament on August 6, 1977 and has again been oversubscribed. Sixty boats are entered with 17 standing by in the wings.

The public is invited to the late afternoon weigh-ins at the Long Creek Marina at the foot of South Grove St., Freeport. Every edible fish weighed in will go on sale. This money will be donated to the Woodward Mental Health Center in Freeport.

Contestants will vie for a lot of expensive rods and reel. While sharks may steal the show, the contest is also open to the heaviest Bluefish, Tunas and Billfish. Emphasis here is on good times rather than cash. In the evening there will be a free Awards Dinner for the contestants and a free raffle of valuable gifts that have been contributed for this event.

The Freeport Fishing Festival has become a bright spot of our summer season and everyone is looking forward to another wonderful time.

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FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

BLUEFISH *Pomatomus saltatrix*

★ PART TWO ★

MORE ON THE NICHE! Last week we discussed how blues behave when they are feeding on abundant bait, especially when it is small bait. When the bait is large, the blues change their behavior somewhat. They still roam around constantly searching, but they may feed less often. Big baits do not usually initiate feeding frenzies. Fish may feed with gusto all right, but the predators must seek out and attack specific individual bait fish because large bait is usually less abundant than the small stuff.

TWO MEALS A DAY! Thus, the bulk of the feeding activity may occur during the periods of dusk and dawn. During the twilight hours, the vision of bait fish has not adapted as quickly as that of the predators. The blues can swarm into shallow water where menhaden may be gathered. They can surround this bait and cluster them into tight schools. When the bluefish charge the bunker, the bait is disoriented and the blues can chop them up with ease. Their bellies fill quickly and the urgency of hunger disappears. Thus, the blues become reluctant to continue the chase and the period of feeding activity gradually wanes. Boat traffic and other activities of man have a negative effect upon this feeding, too. A similar situation may occur when other baits such as mackerel, squid, and mullet are the targets. Since these baits are a little quicker, the blues will chase them to the surface or into the wash, where they will seek out specific individuals. The feeding period can usually be measured in minutes to about an hour.

SPEED IS THE WATCH WORD! When all else fails, the blues rely on speed. If the bait is not terribly abundant, they will roam around in an area, and when they spot a bait fish or two, they will simply run it down. Swim, swim, turn, swim and chop. Easy as one, two, three! Meanwhile, back in the shallows, a bass sits behind a rock waiting for Mother Nature to deliver an eel or some other morsel. Why, it's just like Chicken Delight—we deliver!

THE WORST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS! Sometimes Mother Nature deals from the bottom of the deck, but the blues adapt. That is, there are times when the bait is big, not very abundant, confined to a restricted body of water, and spread out in small pods. This frequently happens with bunker that wander into harbors and small bays. At these times, the blues have to hunt for dinner. They still will not usually use bottom structure to facilitate an ambush. The kill will be made in open water, but the degree of cooperation among the choppers increases. I have watched them do their thing with the help of a recorder. The pod of bunker will show up as a dense mass. If one then circles the bunker pod, one will notice that a

graphing recorder will mark a large fish at regular intervals around the periphery of the bait. These fish will close in slowly so as not to disturb the bunker too much. The pod of bait will get tighter and tighter, until suddenly a blue or two will rush into the school from below, chopping all the way! One presumes that the fish take turns feeding, because most of the blues will remain around the outside of the pod so that when the bunker begin to disperse, the outside guards will push them back into a pod.

SUBSPECIES. Some scientists believe that there are a number of subspecies of bluefish based upon observations made in various parts of the world. I have read where some fisheries experts would guess that there are about five subspecies. Furthermore, it is theorized that a number of these separate breeding populations inhabit the Atlantic Ocean along our coast. There appear to be size differences from breeding stock to breeding stock, which means either that they feed on different foods of differing nutritive value, or that their genetics are slightly different, resulting in different life spans and different growth potentials. For example, it has been reported that the blue which inhabit the water off South Africa reach mammoth proportions and that fish of forty-five to fifty pounds are common. Sounds good—except that a weekend trip to South Africa is a little expensive.

LIFE CYCLE. The life cycle of the bluefish is not well understood. It is believed, for example, that each breeding population spawns about two miles off the Coast in various locations. Years ago, it was thought that all blues spawned in the Caribbean. That theory, however, was improbable since it is hard to believe that one and two-inch snappers could handle a three thousand mile migration into our bays! The eggs float and drift with the plankton. They hatch in about forty-eight hours. These two to three inch fish swarm into our bays by the countless millions in early summer; however, they are difficult to catch. Their arrival is timed beautifully with the development of hordes of young spearing, killies, grass shrimp, and bunker. These one-inch baits are ideal fodder for the snappers.

CANE POLES IN AUGUST. By early August, the fast-growing youngsters are about four to six inches, and can be taken by a variety of techniques. The popularity of snapper blues relates directly to their incredible abundance and to the fact that in many ways they are like their parents. They will slash into schools of bait, hit a lure at full speed, fight hard, and never give up. However, we should not neglect the fact that these tiny bluefish are spectacular eating. Sweet, delicate meat is the attraction. The day will come, all too quickly, when they'll take on that strong,

gamey taste of their parents.

GROW QUICKLY. By late summer, the snappers may be eight to ten inches, and before they leave in the fall, many will weigh a pound or slightly more. Spawning seems to continue for a period of at least a month, because the young fish that appear in our waters are of varying sizes. Therefore, it is possible to catch six-inch snappers in late September, and these will mix with fish over a pound. The smaller fish depart quickly after the first northeaster, while some larger fish will remain into November, if waters stay warm.

MILLIONS OF SNAPPERS DIE! Many fishermen are concerned that we harvest too many small snappers each year. We have size limits on bass, weakfish, and fluke in many states, so why not snappers. The answer is that the situations are not the same. All the snapper fishing that is, and could be done, wouldn't make a dent in the year class. Bluefish are just too prolific. Although cycles of the adults have been noted, can anyone remember a year in which the snappers were not plentiful. I've been fishing our local waters for twenty-five years and I can't remember a year in which snappers didn't please.

VIRUS MAY BE INVOLVED! Recently, some fisheries biologists have stated that they believe that there is a virus that can be epidemic among fall-migrating snapper blues. Furthermore, it has been argued that this disease may be the limiting factor on the future abundance of the adult fisher. That is, blues always have successful year classes, but the migrating young of the year may have a high attrition rate.

SNAPPERS AS BAIT! Almost any game fish will eat snappers if they can catch them. Bass often find it easy to feed on the snappers because the little blues are often preoccupied in feeding on small bait. Thus, the bass can ambush the snappers. Weakfish also feed upon snappers by ambush and the use of live snappers has become a very popular technique in some areas to catch huge tiderunners. Of course, big blues aren't the least bit shy of cannibalizing their own species. Blues can frequently be found feeding on schools of snappers in the fall, when the young blues are busy chasing spearing and other tiny baits. Their parents also have the speed to chase down their progeny when they try to escape. Then, too, other pelagic fish, such as tunas and billfish ravage the migrating schools of baby blues.

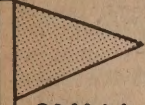
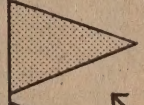
Next week: More on bluefish.



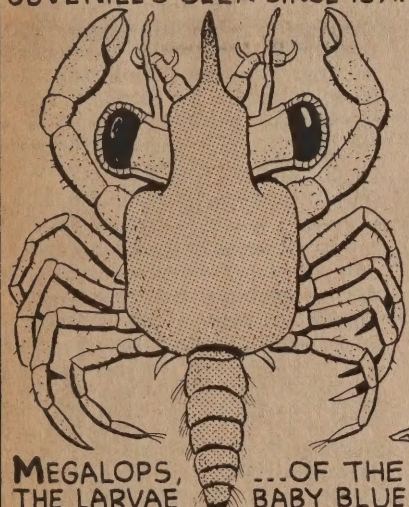
FISH & MARINE NEWS

BY FRED
GUARDINEER

NO MORE STORM SIGNALS. THE U.S. COAST GUARD 3RD DISTRICT WILL DISCONTINUE, AFTER NOV. 1, 1977, ALL VISUAL WEATHER DISPLAYS SUCH AS THE RED FLAGS SHOWN BELOW. THE BOATING PUBLIC IS URGED TO MONITOR THE CONTINUOUS NAT'L. WEATHER RADIO ON WX-1 (162.550 MHZ), WX-2 (162.400 MHZ) & WX-3 (162.475 MHZ).

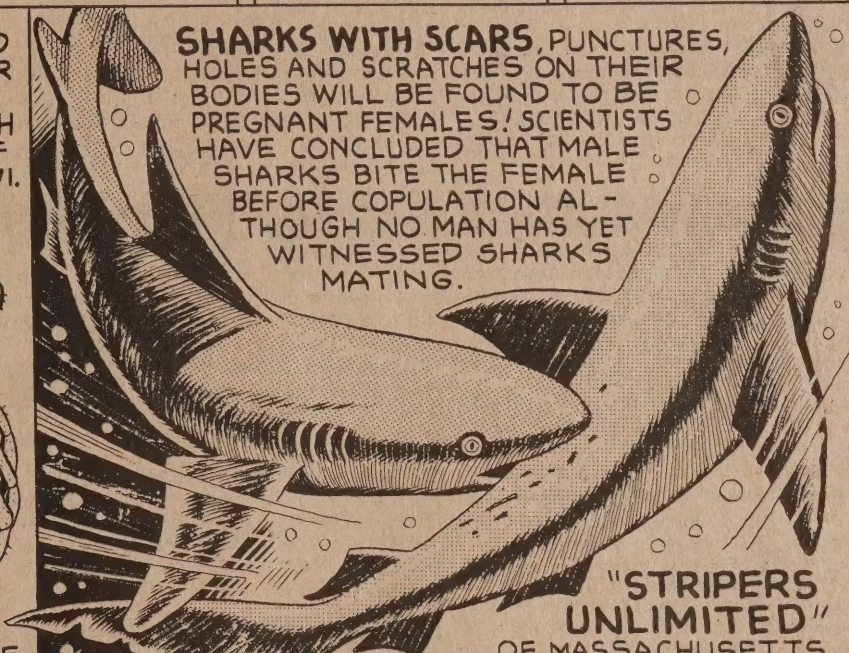
 WINDS UP TO 38 MPH. RED TRI-ANGULAR PENNANT. SMALL CRAFT WARNING	 WINDS UP TO 54 MPH. TWO RED PENNANTS. GALE WINDS	 WINDS UP TO 72 MPH. RED FLAG WITH BLACK CENTER. STORM WARNING HURRICANE	 WINDS OF 72 MPH AND UP. TWO RED FLAGS WITH BLACK CENTERS.
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BLUECLAW CRABS, SAID TO BE WIPED OUT LAST WINTER IN CHESAPEAKE BAY, ARE MAKING A COMEBACK WITH FIVE TIMES THE NUMBER OF JUVENILES SEEN SINCE 1971.



MEGALOPS, THE LARVAE ... OF THE BABY BLUE CLAW CRAB.

SHARKS WITH SCARS, PUNCTURES, HOLES AND SCRATCHES ON THEIR BODIES WILL BE FOUND TO BE PREGNANT FEMALES! SCIENTISTS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT MALE SHARKS BITE THE FEMALE BEFORE COPULATION ALTHOUGH NO MAN HAS YET WITNESSED SHARKS MATING.



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ASK THE CAPTAIN

OPINIONS & ANSWERS

by Capt. Ronnie Lepper

James F. Saccento, Bklyn., N.Y.

When filling a spinning reel with new mono of 15 pound test or less, is there any special method used which would avoid getting twisted loops in the line?

I have tried letting the line roll off the spool with the aid of a pencil through it. I have also tried letting the line run off the end of the spool. Even letting the spool lie free in a bucket doesn't seem to work. It seems that every time I released tension between the rod's tip-top and the spool, I'd get twisted loops in the line, which would foul in the rod's tip as I continued to reel. This seems to be a common problem experienced by both fresh and salt water fishermen I have spoken with.

Not being a spin fisherman myself and having limited experience using them, I can only give you my opinion and that of a few decent spin fishermen whom I spoke to. I, nor they, have not had any problems filling a spinning reel by letting the line pull off the face of the feeding spool. The best and easiest way is to have someone hold the feeding spool with one hand, while letting the feed line run through the fingers of their other hand, keeping a light pressure on the line. If any of our readers know of a better way of filling a reel, please drop me a line and I will pass it on.

Anthony Caroleo, Howard Beach, N.Y.

I do a lot of bunker dunking, but have a problem keeping the bait alive. Do you have any suggestions on making a portable live or circulating well for my outboard skiff?

I find bunkers very easy to keep alive as long as you supply them with a sufficient amount of oxygen by circulating lots of water. Instead of building a live well, do yourself a favor and invest in a bunker caddy they advertise in this magazine. The caddy is cheap and totally fills the bill as a live bait well. I guarantee that the material to build one would greatly exceed the price of buying one. Make sure that your exhaust water is twice the size of your intake—my installation has a three-quarter inch intake and an inch-and-a-half drain. On the supply side, I use a Jabsco water puppy pump which serves me well. You can run a piece of one-and-a-half inch PCV from the exhaust fitting right over the side and use either a through hull, three-quarter inch supply to the pump or drop a screen-covered hose over the side to pick up for the pump. A through-hull fitting is the right way to go and is what most boats use. Most of the commercial boats in this area use this system satisfactorily.

Noel Roche, Bklyn. N.Y.

During last fall's bass season and continuing into this spring, I read and heard a lot about small and cut-down bunker spoons. Do you use them? If so, why? and are they available to the public, or are they homemade?

I will answer your first question with a yes, I do use them at certain times, for specific reasons. The reasons for using them are two-fold: there have been large schools of very small bunkers frequenting our waters for the past few years and, as match-the-hatch is the name of the game, your first intent should be to try to match the size of the lure to the size of the bait. Secondly, we have been fishing new areas in search of the dwindling Mrs. Roccus and find ourselves in the hard rips of New York's outer harbor and the fast tide areas of Sandy Hook and Staten Island. Due to the large size of the still very productive, full size bunker spoons, they cannot be fished properly in these fast tides as their large size causes too much water resistance, forcing them to spin instead of rock. The smaller spoons have less surface area enabling them to move easier in strong tides and rips without spinning. There is one company who now produces a fair small spoon, and another who is in the process of turning out an excellent one. I know, as I tested it myself.

Carol Rossi, Bayside, N.Y.

This past spring while trying to catch striped bass in the Breezy Point area, I noticed that all of the boats that were catching fish were using umbrella rigs with a dropped-back middle lure. This center lure was dropped back quite a ways behind all of the rest and seemed to be taking the majority of the fish caught. Could you please tell me what it is that they are dropping back, and how do you rig it?

Most of the sharp fishermen using that area this spring were using either a three, four, or six-arm umbrella with all of the teaser lures attached directly to the ends of each arm. The drop-back or center lure you noticed is usually a jointed type lure representing a sand eel (four or five companies put them out). The drop-back represents a lagging or wounded sand eel unable to keep up with the rest of the school. This lagging feature triggers the competitive feeding pattern of bass and blues, making them hit blindly at that drop-back. Try not to drop the center lure too far back, as any more than two or three feet takes away the schooling feature, causing the drop-back to lose its identity. Don't feel badly

if you are outfished in the area you mentioned, as it hosts some of the best hook and line commercial fishermen in the country.

Patrick Meagher, Rockville Center, N.Y.

When shark fishing, I understand that the best way to secure these fish to the boat is with a tail rope, hanging the fish upside down from a stern cleat. What length and Dia rope do you suggest?

I prefer a five-foot piece of one-half inch nylon with a loop on each end. Anything lighter will fray too fast, especially on shark skin. Be very careful while tail roping, as this is where most anglers are hurt. Careless tail roping will also cause severe damage to the side of your boat.

Vince DeTeresa, Oceanside, N.Y.

It seems that all of the big bass (over 30 pounds) I read about are all caught in the bays and under the bridges. I've been trolling the Long Beach/Rockaway area for the last two years and have not caught a bass over 19 pounds. Why do they catch these big fish in the bays, and why don't we catch them in the ocean?

Your observation and conclusions are fully warranted. When searching for big fish, I feel like I'm looking for the Buffalo, Whooping Crane, or some other endangered species. Large schools of big fish is something we just talk about today in a past tense. The reason that these big fish bypass our South Shore beaches is the lack of their favorite food—bunkers. In past seasons, the bunker supply has dwindled to a trickle. The commercial bunker boats pressure these fish twelve months a year, twenty-four hours a day. Occasionally, on the way back from Sandy Hook, I will swing into the beach to see if there's any bunkers around: every time I find a small school of them, the bunker boats' spotter planes beats me to them, and calls in the vacuum cleaners to do their job of straining the area of all the bait. I live near the beach and can watch these giant suction machines clean out our beaches at twelve o'clock at night. The few bunkers that escape wind up in the bays, where the boats can't get them and so do the big fish that are searching for them. In my opinion, if we do not rid our beaches of these commercial bunker fleets, or at least set some distance-from-the-beach laws and enforce them, our children will be seeing their big bass in the aquarium or museum.



Just one object among a vast quantity of soil and other glacial debris, **THE ROCK** had been carried along and eventually abandoned by a massive ice sheet which melted long before man appeared along the eastern shores of the North American Continent.

Imbedded deep within the glacial moraine, several thousand years went by before the relentless process of erosion exposed, and eventually loosened the rock, causing it to slide the short distance down the face of the bluff, to the beach below.

In the ensuing years, it's possible that a passing deer found it to be a convenient object upon which to rub against in an attempt to remove

a bothersome parasite. Perhaps the leader of a pack of wolves, a species known to have inhabited the area centuries ago, sprinkled the rock to mark—by scent—its territorial claim. Possibly the first human beings to come upon this object were a small band of semi-nomadic

indians, who used it as a windbreak while pausing for a moment of rest, and it may be that in later years, a group of indian children delighted in climbing upon the rock, or using it in their games of hide-and-seek? Countless generations of sea birds have used this inanimate object as a perching place.

Due to its hard composition and great weight, through the centuries following its fall from the rather steep bluff, the rock withstood change—both in terms of its size and general positioning. However, its surroundings lacked the rock's durability and were subjected to continual change. Wind and rain took its toll by steadily eroding the face of the bluff, and tidal currents and wave action continuously altered the shoreline.

Gradually, the shoreline retreated under the stress of erosional agents well beyond this rock. The rock is rarely visible at high tide. Its great weight, firm anchorage, and durable qualities withstand the continual pounding of the waves, and the swift currents present during the change of each tide. Even the heaviest of breaking seas have no visible effect upon it.

From the moment that the rock came to rest in the sea, it began playing an important role in the life cycle of an assortment of sea creatures and marine algae, or seaweed. *Fucus* or rockweed, with its characteristic air bladders, flourishes over much of the rock's upper half, its segments raising and lowering with the surge of each passing wave. Intermingled with the weed and covering much of its lower two-thirds, colonies of barnacles cling tenaciously to the boulder, while a green silk-like algae, in small patches, covers the upper surface, which to the casual observer, appears devoid of living things.

Rock crabs and young lobsters find the rock's small crevices and weeds, as well as the slight depressions on the sea bottom at its base, ideal places in which to lie in wait for a passing morsel of food, or to conceal themselves from larger predators. Blackfish and bergalls are frequent visitors, in search of mussel, periwinkles, or a careless crab. Occasionally a cow-sized, or pod of small striped bass, will ease into the shadow of the boulder and root about for crustaceans and hiding bait fish, or they will lazily fin in the slow eddy or circular currents usually present beside the rock.

Situated to one side of this huge boulder and angling seaward for several hundred yards, is a submerged, rock-strewn reef, which rises slightly above the eight to twelve foot depths, common throughout much of the area. During tidal changes, and particularly on an outgoing or dropping tide, a vast quantity of water is forced to move over the uneven surface of the reef, thereby increasing the velocity of the current and creating a strong rip. Boulders and slight depressions scattered along the bottom in front of the rock, serve to broaden the area of turbulence as the surface of the rushing water tends to conform with these contours. A surface chop, swirls, and up-wellings or a sort of boiling action mark

the location of the rip and irregular bottom.

The rock is situated along the traditional route followed by various migratory marine species. Through the centuries, great schools of finfish have made their way past the rock. As the waters in this locale contain seasonal abundances of bait fish, many schools of predatory species such as striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish, would often linger to feed in the turbulent waters adjacent to the rock. During those years when an exceptional abundance of bait fish occurred, many of these fish would summer over in the area.

The pioneers of surf fishing were quick to discover that this location was potentially one of the area's most productive angling spots. During spring and fall migrations, great numbers of game fish, under an undulating umbrella of diving and circling birds, were often observed chasing bait in the boiling currents of the rip. Unfortunately, most of this activity occurred well beyond the reach of their equipment—which, by today's standards, was indeed primitive.

Those early-day surfmen were fully aware of the rewards that would be theirs if they could devise a way in which to get their baits further out. A bit of ingenuity and a good deal of hard work led to the completion of a fishing pier. Rickety in appearance and, it is suspected, requiring frequent repairs, it did allow them to place their baits in somewhat deeper water. Perhaps some of those pier anglers longed to stand upon, and cast their baits from, the still distant rock.

As a child, I recall seeing such structures at Montauk Point. At that age, I paid little attention to what condition they were in, or even whether they appeared to still be in use. One was situated beneath the Montauk Lighthouse, close by the area known as Scotts, while the remains of another was located on Jones Reef. Even to this day, the stubs of pilings used to support the one on the Reef are still visible at low tide.

The advent of an efficient revolving spool reel enabled the more skilled of these beach-bound fishermen to cast slightly beyond the rock, when casting conditions were favorable. But it was the introduction of chest-high waders which permitted the first adventuresome soul to meet the challenge and set foot upon the rock. The first rock-bound angler used it as a casting platform, from which the more productive areas of the rip were within easy reach.

However, it is doubtful that visits to the rock by wader-clad anglers were frequent. They could only achieve this goal towards the bottom of the tide; usually wound up getting a thorough soaking, and risked their lives should they lose their balance or delay their return to the beach after the tide had turned.

It was not until the wet suit was put to use by surf fishermen that frequent visits to the rock at prime fishing stages of the tide, became a reality. At first, only a few recognized the value of the wet suit as a fishing tool or were willing to accept the risks involved. In very recent years, the suit's popularity, and competition among anglers to use the rock, has increased considerably.

Whenever I think of the rock, my thoughts invariably wander back to those years prior to the time when man, the most thorough despoiler and destroyer of nature's creations, became a factor in relation to the condition of our marine fisheries. Oh, but if only "the rock" could speak of those many seasons before mile-long nets, pollution, the filling-in of wetlands, power plants, dams, dredging, greed filled anglers, and a host of other abuses to which man has subjected our coastal waters and the living creatures therein.

Just imagine, if you will, the migratory seasons of centuries past. In the spring, hordes of young striped bass, undertaking their first coastal migration, poured out of healthy spawning and nursery areas such as the Maurice, Great Egg Harbor, and Mullica Rivers. These fish mixed with others of their kind, originating from major nursery grounds, such as the Chesapeake Bay, the once-productive Delaware, and the Hudson River.

As they proceeded north, schools of weakfish, larger striped bass—which had wintered at various locations along the coast—and bluefish would join in this migration. In the fall as these three species retraced their steps, schools of big pollack would move inshore to feed on the myriad numbers of bait fish moving through the rips by the rock. It is conceivable that an angler, in those days, on one tide, could have caught all four species from the rock.

In my mind, I can visualize large bass easing cautiously,

(Continued on page 13.)

Surf Side



with
Fred Schwalb

The Rock

The Submarine Buoy ... I must have heard at least a half-dozen versions of why it was so named. In any case, the Sub Buoy lies about two-thirds the distance between the Montauk Point Lighthouse and Block Island—closer to the Island. The buoy marks the edge of a shelf where the water drops from thirty feet in depth to well over a hundred—and I mean drops! Within the space of only a hundred feet or so, there is almost a one-hundred foot drop, forming an almost vertical, sheer cliff! For various reasons, which I won't go into (I really don't know), the entire area holds some mystical attraction for the hordes of bait fish—most notably sand eels, squid, small whiting, mackerel and sundials. (Sundials are bait fish? Since when? Since I started gutting bluefish taken in deep water and began finding sundials in their stomachs neatly folded in halves, thirds, or quarters, depending on theirs and the consuming blues size!) In any case, this tremendous quantity of bait fish in turn attracts the predators. I have personally caught the following at the Sub Buoy at different times of the year: bluefish, weakfish, albacore, bonito, fluke, cod, pollack and mackerel up to three-and-one-quarter pounds. I have seen many pilot whales in the area. Two years ago, a big blue shark hung around the area for a few days (virtually ruining the bluefishing), and late last summer a school of giant bluefin tuna showed up for a couple of days. And, although it is unusual, only a few weeks ago, Capt. Warren Hader on the charterboat *Devilfish* managed to take a striped bass there while trolling for bluefish.

The readouts reproduced on these pages will give you an idea of the quality and quantity of fish that can be found in the area. (They are also an excellent advertisement for the sensitivity of the Sitex graph recorder.) These readouts were made during three days of fishing around the Sub Buoy and also the Midway Buoy on *The Long Island Fisherman's* Grady White center console. It started with a call on Thursday night from John DeMaio, tipping me off that the bass were taking the diamond jigs again at the Elbow. John wasn't booked and invited me to go out with him and his friend. So, the next morning found me fishing alongside John from my own boat (I had managed to oversleep). But John was right, the bass fishing was great—twenty on John's boat, two on mine. John was experimenting(?) with a new lure he is developing, which is a cross between a diamond jig and a tube lure.

When the water began to slack and the bass fishing died, John called over and said that the charterboats had virtually murdered the weakfish at the Sub Buoy, so that might be worth a shot. So, taking his advice, I pointed the bow of the boat eastward and arrived at the buoy about 15 minutes later and saw something that was absolutely unreal—virtually thousands and thousands of birds of every type imaginable flying, diving, or just plain sitting on the water. Quickly flipping my jig over the side expecting to find a school of feeding weakfish, the jig had only sunk a mere five or six feet before I felt the gentle nudge of a fish hitting the flashing Ava jig as it fluttered towards the bottom. Putting the reel on lock, I set the hook—but not on an "expected" weakfish. Fishing with twenty pound line, the fish made short, strong runs at an incredible speed, changing directions in a split second. First a run towards the bow taking drag, reversing direction towards the stern taking drag, then a dive or two, still taking drag. But the 20 pound test line and meat stick I was using was just too much to overcome, and within a minute the fish was flopping on the deck—a beautiful 2-1/2 pound mackerel! I couldn't believe it. What was a mackerel doing around here in the middle of July, during a 100-plus degree heat wave? But it wasn't a stray by any means. For the next half-hour or so, I bailed big mackerel as fast as I could, eventually stopping with weary arms after 22 mackerel were in the box that weighed a total of 49 pounds back at the dock—largest an incredible 3-1/4 pounds! It was a big school, as can be seen on the readout shown in Figure No. 1, and I never drifted out of it.

INSHORE FISHING

with Scott J. Simons

★ SUB BUOY POTPOURRI ★

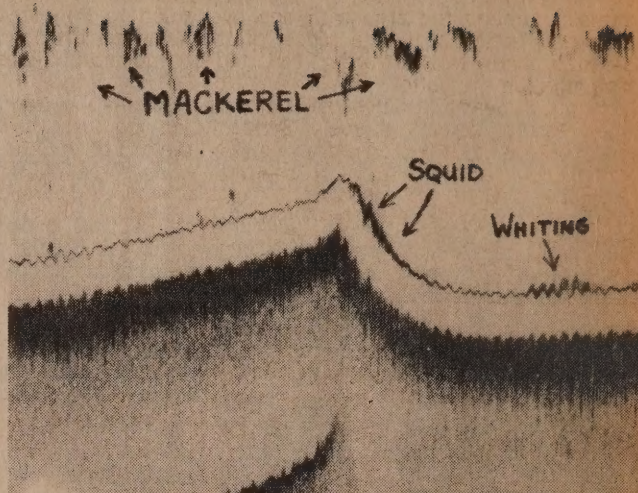


Figure One. This readout from the Sitex recorder shows three different species of fish inhabiting the same column of water at the Submarine Buoy. Mackerel readings are near the surface, the dark patch on the slope is a school of squid hugging the side of a shoal, and a school of whiting is shown on the open bottom.

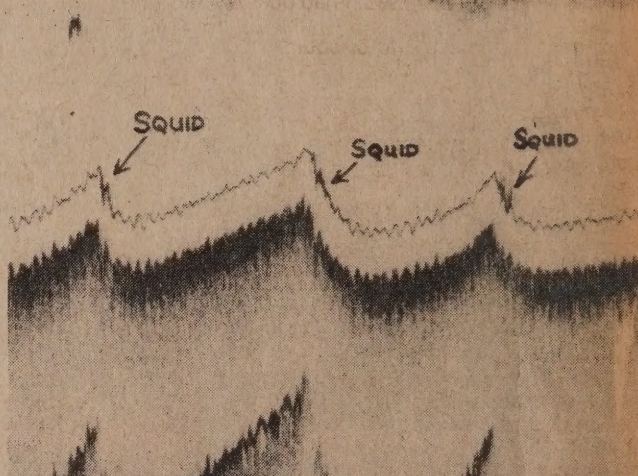


Figure Two. The slightly darkened "white line" on the Sitex readout are squid, hugging the bottom on the side of a shoal. Virtually every change-in-depth in the Sub Buoy area had squid hugging the slope. These were the "short fin" variety, which make excellent bait but are a little tough for making calamari.

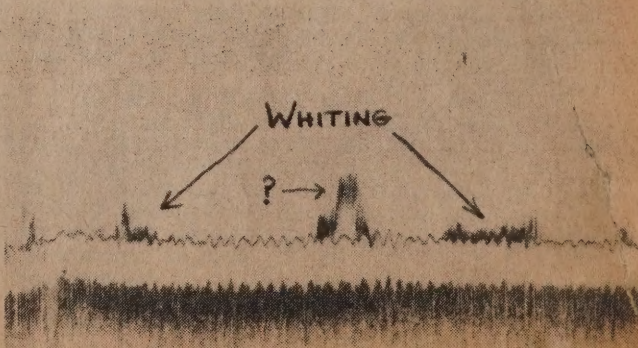


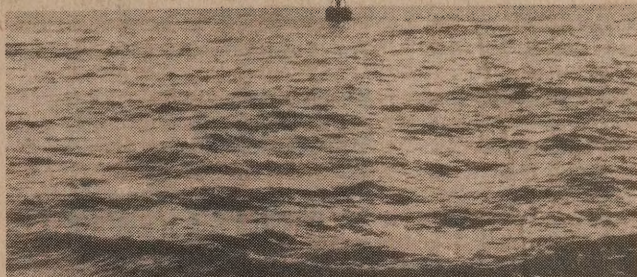
Figure Three. Small schools of whiting were scattered over the entire area wherever there was a stretch of open bottom. The unusually shaped readout in the center had me mystified until I saw an episode of *Star Trek* that explained the difference between a nocturnal black star and a pelagic kumquat.

When I'd had enough of the mackerel, I started slowly cruising around the area with one eye glued to the Sitex recorder, hoping to find a school of the weakfish I'd been hearing about. In short order, I started getting markings of fish right on the bottom (see Figure No. 2), so I slipped the boat out of gear and let the diamond jig sink to the bottom, then started jigging vigorously. Suddenly, on about the third swing of the rod, I had an extra weight on the end of the line, but little, if any, evidence of anything alive. Figuring I'd picked up a weed, you can imagine my surprise when I swung a brightly colored, orange-red squid about 15 inches long into the boat. This was quickly followed by another and another, and another, etc. It seemed that wherever there was the slightest change in depth, there was a tightly-packed school of large squid hugging the dropoff, as can be seen in the Sitex readout shown in Figure No. 3. But the Sub Buoy wasn't through with its surprises for the day just yet. Whenever I drifted over a piece of relatively flat bottom, I'd get a different type of readout on the recorder (see Figure No. 3) that turned out to be whiting! In the middle of July, a 100-plus degree heat wave and only sixty to seventy feet of water—unbelievable! Why all this life concentrated in one area? A quick look into the water beside the boat provided the answer: the water was a virtual sea of sand eels, not just individual schools, but one massive in size that had neither a beginning nor end within sight.

Initially, I had ventured out to the Sub Buoy in search of the weakfish. I had arrived after this action had ended, but was far from disappointed. I had put two bass in the boat, fifty pounds of mackerel, about twenty pounds of whiting, and two dozen of the finest kind of squid which would be frozen for whole baits in anticipation of the doormat fluke run at Montauk later this summer. Had I known what I would experience fishing in the same area two days later, I probably *would* have been disappointed.

Two days later, Sunday, my fishing partner Frank and I were at the Sub Buoy at first light. We wanted weakfish, and had arrived early to beat the charterboats. After cruising around the area for a half-hour or more with nothing to show for our efforts, Frank spotted the charterboat Marie III a few miles south of us. Having nothing to lose, and knowing that the skipper is known as a "pro," we headed for his position and saw that this charter was baiting weakfish with diamond jigs. But there weren't any birds flying and diving, working over the fish—but there *were* a few thousand sitting on the water, which seemed quite unusual at the time. In any case, I slowly maneuvered the boat to the edge of the sitting birds, saw the first markings on the recorder, and took the boat out of gear so that we could squid with the gold (for weakfish) Ava-27 diamond jigs. Both Frank's and my jig hadn't sunk more than four or five feet before we had fish on! And because we had had such a short length of line out, the fish were quickly brought in and the jigs thrown back in the water for another one. It reminded me of films I had seen of tuna clippers, and the way the men fished with bamboo poles and just kept swinging fish into the boat.

While I had my second fish on and Frank was playing his third, my eyes glanced at the recorder out of habit—and I couldn't believe what I saw. (See Figure No. 4.) Dumbfounded, I yelled to Frank: "Frank, look! There must be a million of them!" We were in about eighty feet of water, and the Sitex recorder showed that we were over a school of weakfish that was more than SIXTY FEET DEEP!!! The only problem was that the fish were on the move and moving fast. We would each only get one or two weakfish, then have to chase the school. This wasn't very difficult, as there were



The Submarine Buoy, located between Montauk and Block Island.

several thousand birds swimming along with the weakfish on top of the water. Why were they swimming instead of flying? Well, the weaks were slaughtering the sand eels so bad that all the birds had to do was stick their heads in the water to pick up an injured sand eel.

We caught up to the vast school of weakfish four times in the next twenty minutes, before the action came to an abrupt halt as the school suddenly vanished to parts unknown. During this brief period, we put 21 weakfish in the box that had a combined weight of 140 pounds, so the fish were just shy of *averaging* seven pounds! But I had never seen such a large body of fish, any type including blues, in my life. Look at Figure No. 4 for a moment. Reading from left to right, the first reading on the left shows that the school was in the typical cone shape, thickest near the bottom and thinning out near the surface. The second time, we marked only part of the school, but you can see that it was now concentrated closer to the bottom. The third time we marked the entire school (third readout from left), and you can see that the entire school is rising off the bottom as it drives the bait fish to the surface. In the last readout (far right), the weakfish have driven the bait fish through the turbulence created by the one-hundred foot dropoff and are on a feeding frenzy. At this point, Frank and I could see the golden sides of the weakfish flashing all around the boat, and we could have scooped up as many as we wanted to with a landing net.

One more trip was made to the Sub Buoy last Wednesday. Aboard for the trip was L.I.F. Publisher Rich Reina, his friend Sonny Franze and his two sons, Vinny and Tommy. We arrived too late for the weakfish, but had constant action jigging more than 250 pounds of mackerel, about 50 pounds of whiting, and a couple of dozen squid. We only fished for a few hours, until the arms gave out or *mal de mer* set in on certain parties. At last report, the weakfish were thicker than ever, and the hordes of monster, 10 to 12 pound bluefish moved in last weekend to add to the excitement. So what are you waiting for? Either trailer your boat out to Montauk, or arrange for a charterboat as soon as possible—and you'll be in for the fishing trip of a lifetime.

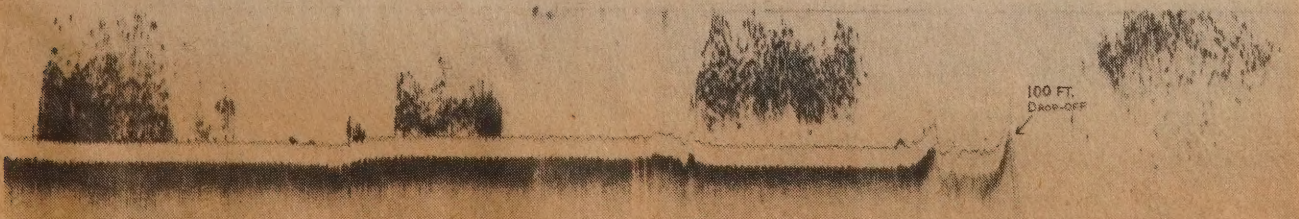


Figure Four. The immense school of weakfish found at the Sub Buoy. Notice how the school is working on the baitfish so mechanically. The boat passed over the school four times, from left to right: the first time it was in a typical cone shape; then the school hugged the bottom; the third reading from the left shows the school rising at it drives the baitfish towards the surface, finally going on a feeding frenzy in the last readout on the right. Notice the 100 foot drop-off from the top of the shelf marked by the buoy.



I guess it's true: you can't please everybody. Last summer, I wrote a short piece on snapper fishing. Several days later, a Hampton Bays fisherman of my acquaintance approached me about it. Why, he wanted to know, did I bother to devote a column to snappers instead of using that valuable space for something more important—like fluke fishing, for instance, or porgies, or even terminal tackle?

I had to admit that was a fair question. The answer was easy, though, for just about every sinker bouncer I know started out as a snapper fisherman. It was the early conquest of these scrappy young bluefish that instilled a life-long interest in fishing. And that is what I told this fellow angler.

However, because this Hampton Bays angler is strictly a deep-water codfisherman, and one of the few guys who considers snapper fishing beneath his efforts, I don't think my answer proved convincing. It's a shame, too, because fishing for snapper is lots of fun. Each summer thousands of anglers find this to be so.

It's very easy to tell when snapper time has arrived. When the annual trek begins, you'll notice those true devotees of snapper fishing—kids. You'll see them on bikes. You'll see them trudging along routes leading to the nearest snapper water, all toting whippy bamboo snapper poles, or perhaps light spinning rods. And certainly you'll notice the gleam of anticipation as they carry the necessary bucket in which to put the catch they know is inevitable. No question about it; kids are great snapper fans.

But this isn't to say old-timers and advanced fishermen don't get their kicks from a little snapper fishing. I sometimes think these anglers outnumber the kids at the height of the season. I know you'll see me dangling or casting spearing in Shinnecock Canal or around the inlet. That's the beauty of snapper fishing: it's never too far from home.

Another nice thing about snapper fishing is its low cost. You will never buy cheaper fishing tackle that returns so much for so little. For around three bucks or less, you can get a suitable one-piece snapper pole, a plastic bobber, and a

half-dozen hooks. Add a box of frozen spearing for bait, and you're in business. Any tackle shop can supply these. Snapper poles also come in two and three-piece, take-apart sections. These are convenient for traveling and are well worth the extra few cents.

The preferred hook is the Bridgeport snapper hook; size three is usually best. You'll notice these hooks have an extra-long shank. This is necessary, for without it, snappers will bite clean through monofilament snells in a twinkling. Like their older brothers, the brutish bluefish, snappers have strong jaws and needle-sharp teeth. A number eight Chestertown flounder hook will get by if necessary, but if you must use a regular-shanked hook, employ a short piece of light, flexible wire before attaching it to monofilament line.

Rigging a snapper pole is simplicity itself. Tie on a length of ten pound mono line, two feet longer than the pole for ease in handling. I wouldn't go beyond this two-foot length, however. To consistently catch snappers, it is necessary to hook the fish and swing it in with one smooth, uninterrupted motion. If the line is too long, pressure can't be maintained on the fish without creating slack. This is the main reason many snappers are never landed. These fish are clever and will quickly take advantage of the fisherman's lack of dexterity.

Snappers are very accommodating in one respect. They won't hesitate to chase bait at various levels whenever hunger asserts itself—which is just about always, being a twenty-four hour a day ritual. Therefore, the fisherman can expect to catch snappers at different depths. They do have their preferences, though. I believe more snapper action is found between three and four feet below the surface, than from deeper or shallower levels. For that reason, it's best to place the bobber about three feet above the hook.

It won't pay you to attempt to hook the snapper until it has seized the bait and pulled the bobber below the surface. To do so before this happens only helps them in stealing the bait; you'll find them quite proficient at this bit of thievery.

The beginning snapper fisherman will probably doubt this, especially when he sees these fish being yanked from their element in what seems like never-ending profusion, but these young blues are often difficult to hook. They are speed personified and gifted with a keen sense of caution. They will quickly drop a bait if there is cause to suspicion its validity.

You can put the advantage on your side if you dispense with using a round bobber and in its place, use one of those slender quill types. These offer no resistance to a wary snapper when it first mouths the bait. You'll find your catch of snappers increasing when the slender bobber is used.

Bait, of course, is the time-honored spearing. Freshly

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

SNAPPER FISHING



Kids are great snapper fans.



But the advanced angler gets in on the action, too.

netted spearing will always outfish the frozen kind, but these are not so readily available unless the fisherman does his own netting; so most likely, you will have to make do with the frozen stuff. Run the hook through the mouth and out the gill cover and then once more about mid-point in the body just below the stomach area where the meat is toughest. It is important that the bait lie naturally along the hook-shank.

This can be a tall order once the bait begins to thaw out and soften. You can avoid this for awhile by keeping the bait out of the sun. But a better idea is to purchase snapper hooks with an additional small hook on the shank which helps hold the bait full out along the shank. It's worth trying.

A light, six-foot spinning rod and matching reel filled with four to six pound mono offers the snapper fisherman much sport. With it, you can use bait or lures.

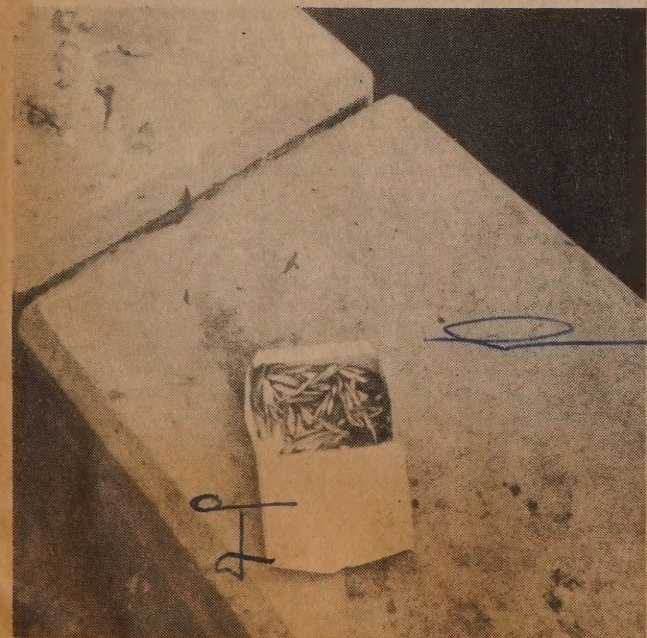
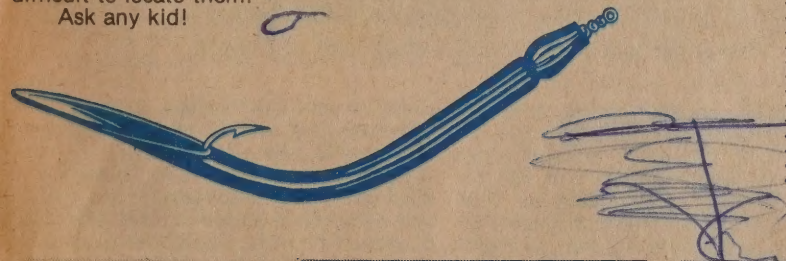
It is important to cast out as far as possible and work the bait or lure back at the correct speed. For bait, a slow retrieve is necessary: too fast and you'll notice curious snappers following behind, but few takers. With lures, the proper retrieve is mandatory. Experiment first and find at what speed the lure produces its most tantalizing action.

For lure fishing, small Sidewinders, preferably with a moss-bunker finish, are good. Small Kastmasters, Hopkins, and Swedish Pimples have produced thousands of snappers for me.

Always tie the lure directly to the line with an Improved Clinch Knot. Small snap swivels have their place—but not here. The Clinch Knot enables the lure to bring out its best action without the weighted hindrance of a snap swivel. When fishing, it is the little things that help put fish in the bucket.

Your best chance of success will be found where there is some movement of water, and having at least ten feet of water at high tide. Shinnecock Canal is one place that comes to mind immediately. It is a hard place to beat for excellent snapper fishing. Backwater creeks are good when the tide is incoming. You'll find snappers enter these places seeking bait fish that have sought safety in shallow water. Piers, bulkheads, jetties, and bridges, all have their share of snappers. It certainly isn't difficult to locate them.

Ask any kid!



All it takes is a box of spearing bait like this....

Surf Side: THE ROCK

(Continued from page 9.)

under the cover of darkness, into the waters surrounding the rock. In all likelihood, they did so during the latter stages of a tidal change when the current had slowed and a minimum expenditure of energy was required to negotiate the rip. Lazily they poked about along the bottom, rooting out whatever they could find to appease their appetites. Occasionally, they would cruise slowly near the surface, through schools of bait fish, stunning them with mighty slaps of their great tails.

But so much for dreams of the past and talk of the present—what of the future? Men will continue venturing out to that distant rock for as long as there are fish to catch; and that is an interesting thought. Should the recent trend along our beaches continue, how long will it be before there is no longer a reason to reach that distant boulder?

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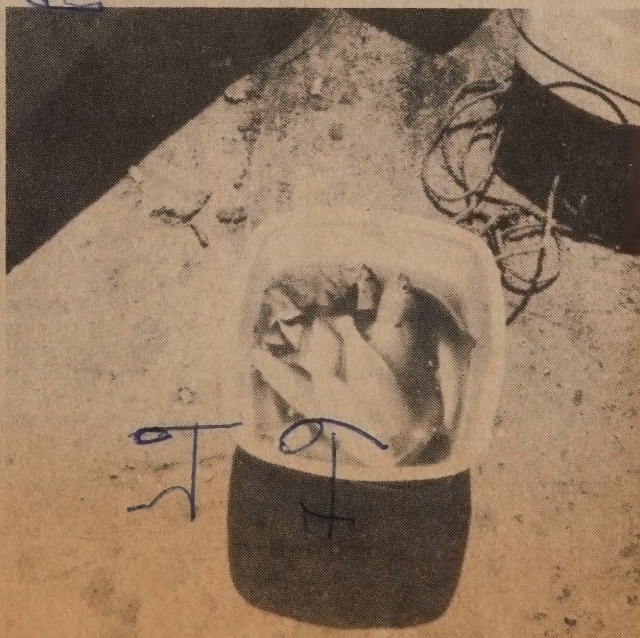
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Basic Shark Fishing

by Ron Onorato

Last year was a year that many offshore fishermen would like to forget. For any number of reasons, the offshore fishing was in pretty sad shape. Tunafishing for all practical purposes was nonexistent both for the troller and the chummers, even out at Montauk. Billfishing was almost as quiet as the tuna, and the sharkfishing, particularly concerning the Makos, also was no cause for jubilation. Montauk waters had a fairly good population of blue and dusky sharks prior to the arrival of the hurricane, but the Makos were lacking even out there. However, as they say, every day is a new day, and if we get away from some of the problems that plagued us last year, then we should be in good shape this year.

With the poor showing put on by the bluefish last season, many anglers took a look at sharkfishing as some sort of replacement. For many of them, this was a first time affair, and the manner in which they approached it indicated it. While shark fishing isn't the most difficult of the offshore fishing, there are certain tips and techniques that will insure not only a successful trip, but a safe one as well.

The very first thing we'll take a look at is the type of boat from which you'll be fishing, and this is about the most important. Last year, all sorts of inadequate boats made the long trek offshore. Most of these boats were more suited for bay fishing rather than any other type of fishing. By the very nature of the fishing, you're going to need a good quality boat that is capable of sustaining itself in heavy seas a good piece off the beach. For many year, I went sharkfishing from a 16 foot Boston Whaler and did reasonably well, but the fishing was severely restricted. The boat would drift very quickly when any sort of wind came up, so it limited the days to those when the wind wasn't howling. Space limitation was another problem, not only for stowing bait, tackle, and chum, but for any fish that we might want to take home. Only Mako sharks were kept, and they had to be tail roped and towed home. Because of the gas limitation, if we took a Mako early in the morning, we would have to crank right up and start home, lest we run out of gas. The limitations of a small boat far outweigh its advantages. Today with the proliferation of small outboards, everyone thinks that his boat can handle sharkfishing. Some can and most can't.

Ideally, the boat should be at least 22 feet in length, and more desirable around 26 to 30 feet long to really do the job. Again there is always going to be the exception to the rule, but we're looking at things from an overall picture. Outboard or inboard power really



Fishermen look over small blue shark kept as a trophy.

doesn't make much of a difference so long as there is an adequate supply of fuel that will carry you through any exigencies that may arise. The size of your boat will determine whether you keep the shark tail roped alongside the vessel or if it will be hoisted up on a gin pole, which many small boats are now equipped with. The design of the boat itself will also determine the success you'll have over the long run. All shark fishing is done while drifting, and on windy days, some boats will drift faster than others, and on calm days some boats won't drift at all, and that's no good either. We'll look at this a little more as we go on.

The selection of the fishing tackle and terminal tackle rigging is where most fishermen fail when it comes down to the basics. An otherwise completely successful trip may be doomed to failure as a result of either improper or inadequate terminal rigging, or failure of the fishing tackle itself. Fishing tackle failure is not as common as it once was, mainly due to today's anglers being more aware of things. Yet still there are enough broken rods and reels to indicate that this can still be a problem. Regardless of what reels you use, they should always be well lubricated, especially when taken right out of the box. Most unknowing fishermen think that because a reel is factory fresh that it is ready to be used. This is about the worst thing to do. Every new reel should be dismantled and completely lubricated. When the reels

come from the factory, they are extremely dry, and to fish with them in this state is asking for trouble.

For the most part, 6/0 reels are the most commonly used reels. It is spooled with either 50 or 60 pound test line and is adequate for most sharks that you may encounter. If you're a little adventure-some, you can go to a 4/0 with 40 pound mono and still take good proportion of the fish you hook up with. Some anglers like to go to a 9/0 with 80 pound mono, but this isn't really necessary unless the boat is equipped with a fighting chair. There is but so much pressure that you can exert on a fish during a stand up battle. It would be far better to have a few hundred feet of extra mono on the spool of lighter pound test, than have less of a quantity of the heavier mono. Of far more importance is the terminal rigging of the wire and hook, this is where the fish is either landed or lost.

First part of the terminal rigging process starts with the right hook and its size. There are all sorts of hooks on the market and I'm sure that there are many that will work well. Over the long run, we've settled on two basic hooks as the tools for all the sharkfishing done. Both are made by the O'Shaughnessy Co. and are 4X strength which is about the strongest you can get. They come in sizes 10/0, 12/0, and 14/0, and are available in only a few places, and even then it is mostly through special order. Any of these sizes can be used depending on the type of shark you're

looking for, and the type of bait you're using. For example, during Mako season the 14/0 hook is the one that is mostly used, and this in conjunction with a big bait such as a whole mackerel or bunker. The smaller baits such as fillets of bluefish or bunker are most effectively deployed on the smaller hooks. The strength of these hooks is really remarkable, so much so that the bigger size is used quite effectively as a gaff hook.

The place where most fish are lost is with the wire leader. As careful as you are, the really big fish usually seem to do devil with the wire leader and often manage to get free. Somehow, the fish will wrap itself around the wire leader and put a kink in it and on its next powerful surge will usually pop the weakened leader. A poor connection at either the hook or the barrel swivel will also weaken at the wrong time. Sharks do funny things with wire and even if it doesn't kink the wire you still may lose the fish. One particular Mako for example, swallowed over fifteen feet of wire leader on just a few seconds runoff. The fish was landed, but there was no more than 12 inches of wire between the shark's mouth and the barrel swivel connecting the mono line to the leader. On another occasion, a shark hit a mackerel bait so hard that he pushed the body of the mackerel up past the wire leader and onto the mono line. The shark was hooked pretty good, but what we had then was a mackerel bait well up onto the mono line. Somewhere along the line another shark or a big bluefish grabbed the free swimming mackerel on the mono and bit right through everything.

After much experimentation, we have found that 175 pound darkened stainless wire to be suitable for almost all occasions and situations. Quite simply, a 15 foot length of wire, (some favor a 20 foot length) is connected to the hook via the haywire twist, and the other end of the wire leader is connected to a black barrel swivel testing out at 200 pounds. Whenever you're attaching the wire to something else, make sure that you put enough twists on the wire, or under a heavy strain the wire may pull out.

Very briefly now, we have covered the fishing tackle, so let's take a look at the fishing technique and the manner in which the chumming will be done. First, where do you look to start fishing? The experts leave little to chance and have done a little research into their quarry. Sharks like all other fish favor preferred water temperatures, with each type favoring something a little different. Blue sharks favor water temperatures around 62-64°, Makos like a little warmer water around 68°, while other sharks will be found within this range. Thus if you find the right zone of water, you'll probably find the sharks. Depending on wind direction, you may find the right water 15 miles off the beach, or you may have to travel 30 miles. Having a water temperature readout machine is a must for any sort of consistent shark catching. You may pass over that magic zone when you're underway, and not even know about it. Once you're in an area that you believe will produce, you'll

start to get the chumming underway. Needless to say, sharks feed almost exclusively by smell, and what every shark fisherman wants to do is give the shark a smell of something to eat. Although some anglers have tried all sorts of things to use as chum, ground mossbunker is by far the most popular. The idea is to get the shark interested into eating a bait that has a hook in it, and not stuffing itself on the chum. A big problem is over chumming, probably because most anglers are used to bluefish chumming.

For a single day's fishing, two cans of ground bunker are the most that should be used. Each can should last about 4 hours. You have to keep diluting the chum so that there is just a very fine chum line going. Bluefish will eat you right out of the boat, but not so with the sharks. You overchum with sharkfishing, and you'll have a tough time getting the shark within striking distance of the baited hook. A very good way of getting a thin, but continuous chum line going is to use solidly frozen chum. With some sort of heavy mesh bag, the whole can is dumped overboard and the mesh bag is secured alongside the boat. Even in fairly warm water, it will take quite a while for the entire mass to dissolve. As the boat is drifting along, little bits of chum and juices are dispersed into the water. This is a very effective way of chumming.

Most boats will fish three rods, unless the boat is pretty small where only two rods will be fished. As mentioned earlier, all shark fishing is done while drifting, so the baited hooks will be drifting along with the boat. The idea is present the baits at different levels so that all angles are covered. For example, the first rod will be fished near the boat, say with about 50 feet of line out and no weight. The second rod will be put out with 125 feet of line and a two ounce weight. The third outfit will now be covered. The lines are set out with the reel out of gear and in free spool with the clicker on. Thus any pickup by a fish will be indicated by a clicking of the clicker on the reel.

When this happens, the clicker is taken off and more line is fed to the shark. The amount of time you give him will vary from angler to angler, but it is better to give the fish a longer runoff than a shorter one. Timewise, a slow count of six will be about right. If you yank the bait out of the fish's mouth, then quickly put the reel into free spool and leave it there, sometimes the fish will come back if there is any bait on the hook. If the fish is hooked, all other lines are brought in, and the battle is on. If all goes well, you'll have the fish alongside the boat anywhere from 5 minutes to 5 hours later. If you plan on release, (which is done in just about all cases except for the mako or white shark), all you do is snip the wire and away he goes. Landing the fish is a little more difficult as well as dangerous.

Before we get to the actual landing techniques, let's take a brief look at the types of bait that you'll have at your disposal. Virtually any small fish will serve as a shark catcher, but some are favored over others. Mackerel and

bunker served whole are about the most popular. They are rigged with the hook inserted once through the eyes and out again through the shoulder. When the fish are a little finicky, it sometimes pays to go to a fillet of mackerel or bunker rather than the whole bait. You simply insert the hook once through the flesh. Perhaps the finest shark bait is the one that is least often used. Fresh bluefish, either filleted, or whole when they are small, is in my opinion, the best shark bait available for just about all sorts of sharks. When the bluefish are heavy offshore and they make raids into the chum slick, they will make short work of the mackerel bait. However, they will seldom bother with the bluefish fillet.

Let's move on to the actual landing techniques, as this is about the most risky part of the whole sharkfishing business. Again, most sharks these days are released, which is pretty good compared to the days when boats would leave unwanted shark carcasses all over the dock to rot. The one shark that rarely gets released is the mako, in addition to its fine fighting abilities, its eating value is also superior.

The flying gaff is the tool to use for landing any big fish, be it shark or otherwise. Quite simply, the flying gaff is a large gaff hook with a barbed end that detaches from its handle when stuck into the fish, but secured to the boat with a length of rope. When the fish is brought alongside the boat, hopefully it is pretty worn out from a lengthy battle. When the fish is within striking distance of the gaff, the gaff man hits the fish hard and hopefully sticks the gaff into

(Continued on page 17.)

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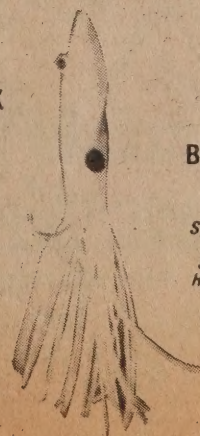
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Four Corner Triangle

by John Konior

So what's in a title? The intent here was to express an area where many of you have heard of and to indicate the type of fishing, or more appropriately the degree of success one might achieve fishing there. Those of you who faithfully read *The Fisherman* or follow the fishing reports in the newspapers no doubt have frequently come across the expression, "Four Corners". Although a good many of you know the location's whereabouts, I'm sure that just as many wonder where it is and what's so good about it.

To start off, Four Corners, insofar as the area being fished is a misnomer. The Four Corners does exist, but it is an area that is rarely fished. Instead the most productive area is south of the famed Four Corners. More about this later. So where is the Four Corners? Let's start by asking you to refer to the chart. The Four Corners is located just south of the town of Seaford and forms the northwestern edge of South Oyster Bay. The name Four Corners is derived by the intersection of four waterways, namely Seaman's

Creek, Seaford Creek, Goose Creek, and Great Channel. The waterways are extensively sailed upon vying with the Sloop and State Channels for being named the water bound L.I.E. The area is quite accessible since it is also located just to the east of either the first or second Wantagh Parkway bridges. As inferred the area is highly trafficked, particularly on weekends when large pleasure craft make their way to points east, west and south. So what's the allure, you might say? It turns out that the area happens to be one of the finest fishing areas around, and its accessibility makes it even more so. Despite heavy fishing pressure one is generally rewarded with a fine day's catch. The area is fished exclusively by private boats and rowboats and skiffs rented from the many liveries which are located in the town of Seaford. Okay, so much for the general location.

By far the most productive fishing spot is the area located by the "Drain," and specifically just north of the channel marker numbered "Z12." Z12 marks the

left side of Great Channel when traveling north to south from Seaford. Immediately across the channel is a green marker called "Z13." Although the chart doesn't show it, the water depth in the area varies considerably from 1-2 feet at the edge of the channel to over 20 feet, approximately 30 feet from Z12. If you drew an imaginary line from Z12 to Z14 (just north of Z12) and then to Z13 (across the channel) and then back again to Z12, you would form a triangle. The area within the triangle is where you would want to fish particularly along that imaginary line connecting Z12 and Z14. A word of caution: As mentioned previously, there is heavy boat traffic in the area so it's always a good idea to stay at the edges of the channel particularly on weekends.

Now that we're in the area, what about all that good fishing. The predominant catch in the area is flounder and fluke. Depending on season you will also catch blowfish, porgy, seabass with an occasional blackfish and weakfish thrown in. It's literally a sinker bouncer's delight. You'll seldom find boats drifting the area for fluke because of the boat traffic and the number of boats anchored. So, if you want to fish the area be prepared to settle down and anchor. To improve your catch while anchored the rule is to chum. For flounders use mussels, ground clam or corn. For fluke, or for that matter any other species other than flounder, use ground bunker.

Seasonally your catch will progress as follows:

Early spring [March-April]: Flounders are in order. Use mussels for bait and ground mussels for chum. Fish in water 8-10 feet. As the water warms up, switch to worms and clams for bait and corn for chum. (Doesn't attract the many spider crabs which inhabit the area). Move into water 10-15 feet deep.

Spring (May-June): Flounders continue through May tailing off at the end of the month. However, best flounder for number and size are caught through mid-month. Use worms (both sand and bloodworms) and corn chum. Move into water 15-20 feet deep, as water warms up. During early May through third week you'll also pick up some blowfish and an occasional blackfish (particularly on sandworm.) After mid-May you'll also pick up an occasional fluke, again on sandworm or clam. As May closes out so do the flounders, but now the fluke pick up. Improving steadily through June, fluke are the order of the day. Use squid, killies, spearing, sand eels and in combination. By all means use bunker chum. Fish in water 8-12 feet deep as a general rule, but try to stay close to the edge of the channel, or the slope where fishing is best.

Summer (July-August): Fluke con-



tinue as the mainstay. However, be prepared to lose bait from your fluke hooks from other species. Should you want to catch these other species rig up a rod with small hooks using clam or squid for bait. You'll catch sand porgies, sea bass, blowfish, lafayette and snappers.

Fall (September-November): Fluke begin to want through September, with such fish as seabass, blowfish, snappers and an occasional kingfish making up the bag. Flounder begin to pick up towards the end of September and continue through November with mid-October being best. Start for flounder in the deeper water (15-20 feet) progressively moving to shallower water as the water cools down. Toward mid-October you'll pick up fish in 3-5 feet of water. As the temperature drops, moving into November, the fish will again move into the deeper water. Worms and clams are the best baits for fall flounder, and continue to chum with corn. If the weather holds up you'll continue to catch flounder into December and beyond, particularly in the deeper holes. But judging by the past winter, weekend TV football games will be the order of the day.

That just about rounds out the Four Corners, or should I say the Four Corner Triangle, fishing season.

In closing let me mention some of the rigs I've found to work best for me when fishing in the area.

Flounder—I've always advocated the Florida Rig or a Fish Finder. The rig consists of either a sliding sinker or a prepacked plastic ring with a sinker

holder attached. Slip the sinker or ring on to your line and attach a snap swivel to the end of your line. Tie a couple of Chestertown #8's or Eagle Claw #6's in tandem and clip the hooks to the snap swivel. The line is allowed to move freely when the fish nibbles. Larger, more spooky fish will hit more readily when they don't feel the direct weight of the sinker.

Fluke—Because of the rather large crab population in the area, I avoid the standard long leader bottom hook. Instead I use a 1/0 or #1 Eagle Claw on a 18-24 inch leader attaching it to my line by means of a "Quick Rig" approximately 12-18 inches above the sinker. Because the currents are relatively swift the baited hook will play out with the weight of the boat bringing it close to the bottom without actually being on the bottom within grasp of pesty crabs. I've had great success with this rig as have fishing buddies who've fished with me in the area.

Other Species—when fishing is slow I will place a single Eagle Claw #6 on 15" leader directly above the sinker using a "Quick Rig" in conjunction with the fluke hook set up described above. Using clam, squid, worms, etc., for bait you can catch porgies, seabass, blowfish, etc., while waiting for a fluke to bite.

As a final note use the lightest sinker which will allow you to hold bottom. Sometimes the current is so swift that you'll have to use some fairly hefty weights. Don't be discouraged. If the current gets too swift, move closer to the

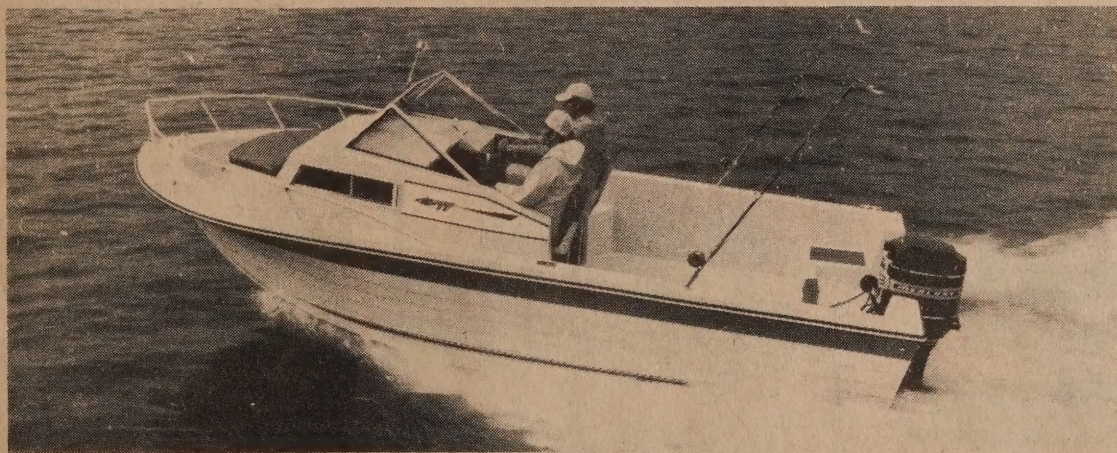
edge of the channel where a back eddy current exists. One final point, as the current ebbs and fishing slows down, don't move. It will pick up again as the tide changes. Have your lunch and wait it out. In all give the Four Corner Triangle a try. I'm sure you won't be disappointed now that you can find it.

BASIC SHARK FISHING

(Continued from page 15.)

the fish. The gaff detaches from the handle, but is secured to a cleat with a length of rope. One of two things can happen; the shark can get all sorts of lively and raise a mess or it will remain docile. Usually the shark takes it easy, but you may encounter some stiff resistance, especially if the fish is a little green. Once the shark has been stuck with the gaff hook, the next thing to do is secure a head and a tail rope around the fish and secure it alongside the boat until the fish expires. It can be left alongside the boat, or it can be yanked up on a gin pole. From there, you can keep on fishing and hope for more, or call it a day. With the scarcity of Makos these days, catching one per trip is hard enough, let alone multiple catches.

As far as disposing of a mako shark, you have to go no further than the kitchen for some very fine eating fish. The best thing to do is steak out the fish as soon as possible and treat it as you would any other fish. Its best value is when the fish is fresh, and it deteriorates when attempts are made to freeze it.



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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

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Ron Onorato called to tell us that the bass fishing during this July full moon has been very good at night at the Pollack Rip and on the southside. On Friday night Ron took 9 fish up to 42 pounds under the Light and on Sat. night 12 fish up to 42 pounds were taken on the southside trolling Danny plugs. Sat. Ron and a few of his fellow officers from the NY City Police Dept. went shark fishing and had a 250 lb. mako right up to the boat that broke off during landing procedures. They also took two blue sharks and one hammerhead shark on mackerel. All were released.

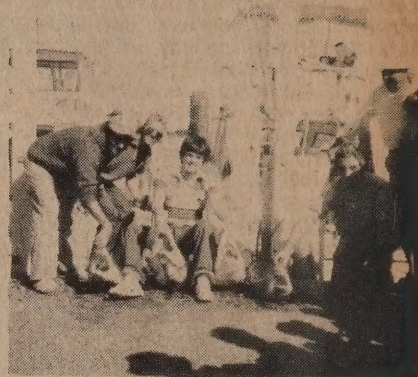
Dave Wimpelberg of the Sag Harbor Savings Bank went fishing on the **Viking Star** night bluefishing trip on Friday night. Dave didn't take any bluefish, but he did take a blue shark of 250 pounds. Dave said that a woman angler aboard also took a blue shark, this one 350 pounds, that took her about a half hour to bring to gaff.

Frank Tuma Jr. of **Tuma's Tackle** reported that the bluefishing is still very good from the Southwest Ledge to the Pt. Weakfish are under the blues, and the charterboats have been getting between 20 and 40 fish for a half day trip. Offshore fishing for sharks is still very good with quite a few marlin and swordfish being sighted, but few being taken on hook and line.

Capt. Jimmy Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** reported that the codfishing is



450 lbs. of mostly bluefish, a few weaks and six bass. Dennis and Pete stretched their arms to a size 36" pulling the fish on **Ava Diamond Jigs** aboard Captain John DeMaio's charterboat **Vivienne**.



Shown here is the party of **Hank Curran and Co.** with 4 mako sharks taken on Tuesday aboard the charterboat **"Adios"**. Two large dusky and one blue shark were also taken.

still excellent at Coxes Ledge. A lot of big cod are being taken with a few pollack in the 10 to 12 lb. range and a few silver hake thrown in the catch. Both the Southwest corner and the east end of the Ledge are producing. The **Peconic Queen** is now starting night bluefishing, leaving the dock at 7 P.M.

The charterboat **Adios** reported that mako shark fishing has been fantastic this past week, when the boat accounted for 7 makos, 4 of which were taken in a single day. On Thurs. afternoon the boat harpooned a 267 lb. swordfish that wouldn't take a bait. Swordfish and marlin are all over the area south of the Pt. Inshore, the boat has been loading up with bluefish and weakfish on diamond jigs.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** reported that the inshore action on diamond jigs has been excellent. Bluefish up to 15 pounds and weakfish in the 5-8 lb. range are just about everywhere you drop a jig between Great Eastern and the Sub Buoy, and the charters have been taking between 2 and 5 bass a trip fishing when the tide is right. On Thursday, Capt. DeMaio had Nick Karas of **Newsday** and **LIF** staff members Scott Simons and Doc Muller aboard. In half day fishing they took about 20 bluefish, 2 bass to 25 pounds and about 50 pounds of porgies.

Capt. Fritz Hubner of the charterboat **Mistress Too** called to report a great day of offshore fishing on the west side of the Butterfish Hole, 190 degrees from the Pt. in 32 fathoms of water. Anthony Macola took a 53 lb. mako shark, a 411 lb. dusky and an 80 lb. white marlin. One blue shark was also tagged and released. Fritz said that the water is alive with bait fish and white marlin and swordfish are all over the area. Last week a woman angler, Frances Griggs, took a 51 lb. mako trolling. They also saw 3 swordfish. Only one could be baited but it broke the wire with its bill and was lost. The party also saw a lot of marlin.

Capt. Pete Van Alst of the shark charterboat **Modar II** said the action has shifted to surface fish. A party consisting

of Fran and Terry Mc Connell of Rockaway Park took a mako and 3 brown sharks on Thurs. and even saw a blue shark. Trolling on the way out and back is producing school tuna and white marlin. On Sat. a party headed by Craig Forshee was fortunate enough to see a tiger shark of over 800 pounds but the animal refused to pick up a bait. This shark was seen in 38 fathoms of water south of the Pt.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the offshore fishing is excellent with lots of mako sharks being taken and inshore the boats are loading up with blues and weakfish. The "Dave S II" reported finding wall to wall bluefish at Shagwong and caught so many they stopped fishing even though the fish were still biting. The "Obsession" took two makos of 70 and 100 pounds. The "Friendship" loaded up with fluke in the North Rips but didn't take any doormats. On Friday the "Bumble Bee" brought in two blue sharks of 230 and 150 pounds into the marina and released four. Artie Jost of the "Sea Hunter" and Bill Bach had two white marlin on Friday but dropped both. On Thursday Nick on the "Islander" spotted four swordfish offshore and baited them without results. He didn't have a harpoon to follow up with, much to his great chagrin. Naturally, the first thing he did upon returning was to purchase a harpoon in the Star Island Yacht Club's tackle dept. On Friday the "Modar II" brought in 3 mako sharks, and on Friday the charterboat "Dentuso" weighed in 3 makos to 117 pounds.

Capt. Artie Jost of the private boat **Sea Hunter** took three white marlin last week. His brother Ed of Smithtown had a 51 pounder and Artie's son Jeff took a fish of 78½ pounds. Ronnie Turner of Manhattan took the third white marlin of 50 pounds.



This 43-1½ lb. cod was taken by Steve Thoresen, plus three others aboard the Viking Star on a trip with the John Dewey High School Fishing Club. Subscriber Club Photo.

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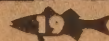
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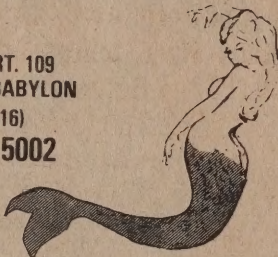
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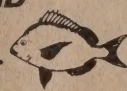
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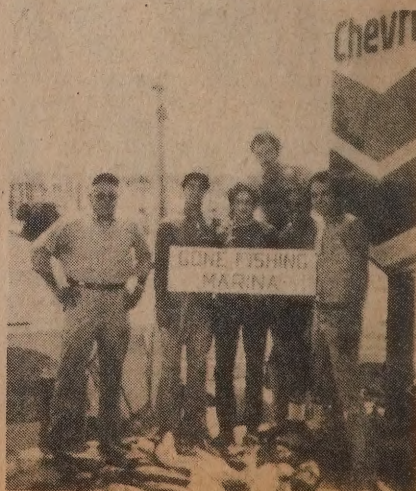


Capt. Gene Kelly of the charterboat **Sea Doll** also reported an excellent offshore fishing expedition Sat. night. Fishing in 35 fathoms of water south of the Pt. two mako sharks of 286 and 70 pounds were taken along with a 225 lb. dusky. The big mako straightened out a flying gaff and created quite a ruckus. Gene said that his boat will be in Gloucester for a time in August for some giant tuna fishing, and he still has August 22nd, and 23rd available for anyone interested in this exotic big game fishing.

Ronnie Grandinetti on the **Julie III** and his charters on Saturday led by Brian Wilson and on Sunday led by Matt Henderson caught 52 bluefish 6 to 13 pounds, 3 striped bass 14 to 20 pounds, 3 weakfish and 650 pounds of porgies up to 3 1/4 pounds and one ten and a half pound doormat fluke taken by "Gus." Ron said that he has been fishing around Great Eastern, the Elbow, and the Midway area.

On Sunday, Scott, Stu and L. Korn (son of G. Korn) fished Midway with Ava 27's and green Banana Splits by s 9 g Tackle. Slammer bluefish and tide runner weaks were jigged under birds from dawn to about 8:30 am, all fish around the 7-10 lb category. L. Korn had the outstanding catch of the day with a 3 3/4 lb porgy and a 10 lb weak. This honor enabled him to buy the Carvel on the way home.

Last weekend the **Free Spirit** on a three-day trip brought in 3 makos in the 175 lb class. Loads of marlin were seen but couldn't be baited. On Tuesday two browns and a blue shark were taken and a swordfish came up to the chum bucket but wouldn't take a bait. On Wednesday 46 bluefish were taken by a 6-man charter by the sub buoy and at Midway. This past Friday 39 blues went to 4 men in a charter fish 8-12 lbs. Saturday, Frank was into loads of blue shark tagging 12 and taking back 2. Saturday saw 2 makos come to the boat with Tony DiMarko of Levittown tagging and



Mondo Polanco, Mike Mole, Pete Mole, Joe Barone, and Chris Dellecave with 500 lbs. of bluefish taken aboard the charterboat "Kopy Kat" north of the sub buoy. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.



Six happy Westchesterites make their sharks open wide for the camera after returning from a charter aboard the "Modar II" with Capt. Pete Van Alst. The party included Gary and Bob Hendricks, Bill Lee, Chris Deering, Quint Cwiffetell and Dan Sobenko, who took home a total of 160 lbs. of shark meat.

releasing his. This was all on live squid. Excellent bluefishing inshore. Frank's wife has just given birth to a son and they are considering giving him a middle name of "Mako", but don't take any bets.

The Viking Skipper reports that he is fishing now Gardiners Island with Porgies really red hot. Hi-hook is in the 70's every day. Sunday was better than Saturday with many buckets filled to the top. Hi-hook Sunday was A. Murphy of the Bronx with 60 Porgies.

Jerry Schnur, Pres. of Reliable Gaff Company, fishing a 3-day trip on the Cricket II with Frank Mundus and a few other Montauk CAPTAINS* TELLS US that they got several makos, blues and dusksies on the trip with most fish being tagged and released. Jerry goes under the name, on occasion, of Capt. Hook.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the Promised Land Fishing Station reported that the fluke fishing was good all during the week but seemed to taper off on Sunday for reasons unknown. During the week the high hook boat was bringing in between 30 and 40 fluke and the high hook on Sunday was 20 fish. The hot area is drifting between the Red Nun Buoy No. 2 to the Bell Buoy off Hicks Island. Porgy fishing has been very steady but not quite red hot. The fish in front of the station are small, with bigger fish being taken at Gardiners. A few bluefish are roving around the area but there are almost no weakfish.

EAST HAMPTON

Bill Cox of the Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station reported that "There are a million porgies around." The fish are right in front of the station at the bell buoy to the entrance of Three Mile Harbor and the fish were up to 1 1/2 pounds. Outgoing water has been best but the fish are biting through all tides. Squid bait seems to be producing just as good as the stand-by skimmer clam. Bill said that if you chum you only attract trash fish, so chumming is unnecessary.

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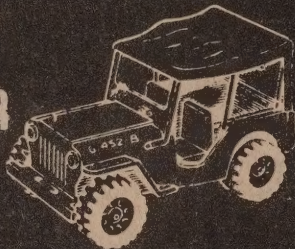
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Dealers

Len Callahan and Walt Dugan with 13 fluke from two to seven and one-half pounds, taken from one of our skiffs at nun two. Photo courtesy of Promised Land Fishing Station.

Bluefish have been running around the area chasing the schools of large bunker. Big bass are being taken live lining bunker at low tide in the rips and the rocks by the Ruins.

SHINNECOCK

The Capt. Clark Boats have been having excellent porgy fishing all week with the high hook usually about 50. The boats are fishing the local Peconic wrecks and clams and worms have been the best bait. The porgies are mixed sizes ranging from 1/2 to 1 1/2 pounds. A few small weakfish are also being taken daily, but not too many.

Charter boat Outer Limits called to say that last week they were mostly bluefishing, fish being 7-14 lbs, getting 20 - 35 per day with the action holding steady. The boat has several August weekend dates open.

HAMPTON BAYS

Jimmy at Corr's Fishing Station reported that the fluke fishing in Shinnecock Bay was excellent this past week. Most boats took between 10 and 15 good sized keepers. Best catch of the week was 45 fluke up to 4 pounds, all taken on live killies. Best action was had fishing in the East Channel by Shinnecock Inlet on both rising and falling tides. Use a sand eel and squid combo or a live killy for bait. Peconic Bay is still producing good catches of porgies in the small to medium sized range. Use sandworm or skimmer clams for bait. For best catches, also use bunker chum after the fish have been located.

Tony at Tony's Fishing Station reports the fluke fishing picking up and is now very good. Best areas have been drifting around buoys 21, 20, and 18 right in front of the station. The channel by the Coast Guard Station is also producing good catches. The boats have been averaging 15 to 20 fluke a day, all nice sized. Use sand eels or spearing on any moving tide. Tony said that there are a few flounder still around in front of the station at buoy 21. During the week one angler using red dyed clams took 18 nice flounder there, including a 2 lb. 2 oz. fish that he weighed in at the fishing station.

Mike at Skippers Fishing Station



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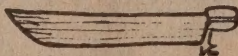


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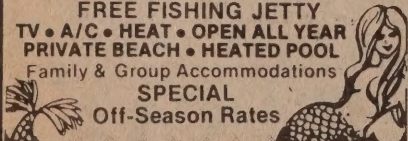
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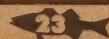
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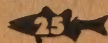
Fish with the Professionals!!!

*Tired of sailing with fly-by-night, part-time boat
captains that are only fishing weekends?*

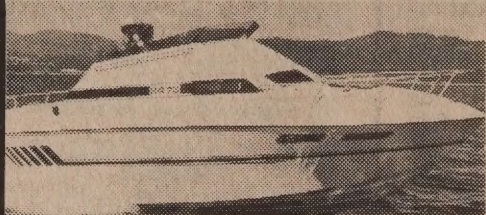
Then look for the "Member M.B.A." logo in advertisements for Open and Charter boats, which means that the captain is a full-time professional fisherman and belongs to the *Montauk Boatmen's Association*.

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M.B.A.**

Montauk is the *Fishing Capitol of the World*, holding more I.G.F.A. World Records than any other port in the world. But to be successful, a captain must be on the water daily, knowing the tides the fish were feeding on last — where, when and how! He has to be in contact with the rest of the fleet so that information may be traded. But most of all, a captain needs the years of experience on the water that are necessary to learning the art of fishing at Montauk. Many of the *Montauk Boatmen's Association* members come from families that have been fishing Montauk for generations...not just an occasional weekend. So next time you are looking for a boat at Montauk, look for the "M.B.A." logo...the sign of the **PROFESSIONALS!!!**



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24' FISHERMAN
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open weekdays 'til 9 PM Sat. & Sun. 'til 6:00



Jack Kaplowitz and his son, Marvin, of Fresh Meadows took these two big flatties, 8 lbs. and 6 3/4 lbs., and several others in the new cut on live killies and a strip of squid. Photo courtesy of Cerullo Brothers Fishing Station.

reported that the fluking has been terrific at the Coast Guard Sta. and the East West Channel. The fish are hitting through both tides all day long with many of the fluke going 2 to 3 pounds and an occasional 5 pounder thrown in. Mike Andreczk fished two days with live snappers and made some excellent catches. One day he had 20 fluke and the next day he had 25 fluke. Anthony Neclario took 15 fluke up to 6 pounds using live snappers for bait. Sand eels, squid and killies are all producing, but the best catches are being made on snappers. Offshore fishing has been excellent for bluefish in 90 feet of water one mile off the Sea Buoy. Marlin fishing has been dynamite in water 100 to 180 feet southeast of the inlet. The "Ho-Jo" took a white marlin of 81 pounds during the week. Plenty of sharks around including albacore, bonita and yellowfin tuna, making for good bags offshore.

MORICHES BAY

Romoma of the Silly Lily Fishing Station reported that the fluke fishing has been very good, with the best action in the channel at buoys 38 and 39 and at the Elbow in the Old Inlet Channel. Best bait has been sand eels and squid combo and those using light tackle and "drop-ping-Back" have been doing best. Al Synarth and his wife from N.J. had 27 keepers up to 3 pounds. Everyone is getting fish. The snappers are starting in the bay but are still on the small side.

Seatuck Cove Fishing Station reported the fluke fishing has been fair to good. Best action on incoming water in the area around buoys 39 and 43. Use sand eels and squid for bait, followed by killies as a second choice.

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at stiritz Fishing Station reports good crabbing at buoys 15 and 17 in traps. Fluke from buoy 19/27 on killies, spearing and squid. Snappers are all over the place on spearing and small tins. Lots of big blues outside of Moriches inlet, 8-16 lb monsters. These are being trolled deep on umbrellas from

The Long Island FISHERMAN FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a \$10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

Mimi Lobue of Brentwood is our winner this week. Along with \$10, she has chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Speedy VI.

CONTEST



NATIONAL FABRICATING CO., Inc.
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★ Bonus Prize ★

Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!!!

THIS WEEK'S
WINNING LICENSE
PLATE NUMBER IS:
245-PCV

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK
Viking Star
Peconic Queen III
Martin III

CAPTREE
Speedy VI
Capt. Ben Litwin
Capt. Joseph Fleet

SHEEPSHEAD BAY
Amberjack IV
Chief
FREEPORT Aloma II

NORTH SHORE
Port Jeff Ace
Betty W



Gary, Bob, Glen and Richie took seven blue sharks and one mako on July 17 aboard the charterboat Rum 'N Coke, out of Moriches.

40-85 feet of water. Twenty fish and up is no rarity.

SAYVILLE

Vinny at Youngs Fishing Station tells us that Ocean Beach and Pt. of Woods areas are producing very good weakfish action. One customer had 15 weaks fishing the area of the Great River Cove using Salty Dogs and squid. A few blues were taken in this same area on bait also. Doc Miller and Al Morgan took 40 weakfish in 4 hours during Saturday's drisel on Salty Dogs and squid. The charter boat **eljon** had 28 blues from 8 - 18 lbs fishing the outside artificial reef with umbrellas on Saturday. Also, a half dozen blowfish were taken off Sayville by one angler on Sunday.

WEST SAYVILLE

Marty at South Bay Fishing Station reports lots of weaks all week long for boats drifting buoys 28, 29 and 30 using dogs with squid strips and also on spearing. These are 3-4 lb weaks, hitting on any tide. Lots of fish, says Marty. Fluking is best just east of buoy 30 on killies and spearing on incoming. These are 2-3 lb fish. Kings in the same 28, 29 and 30 area on squid strips and skimmer clam. Kings up to 1 1/4 lbs. Porgies at buoy 5 Hecksher ranging from 1 - 1 1/2 lbs. Lots of snappers in the 1 1/2 lb class all over the place on anything. Irv Schwartzman and Gene Bosovitch had 54 weaks fishing in the rain Saturday in the area of 29, 28 and 30.

OAKDALE

Capt. Irv of the **Big Red** fleet reports good fluking from the F.I. Lighthouse out to the inshore wrecks. Many keepers with an occasional net jammer. Squid and live killies working best. Some weaks and blues mixed in on the fluke baits.

OAK BEACH

The Store reports on Sunday blues started to return to the Inlet mornings and evenings as did the weaks. They are generally hitting tubes and umbrellas.

Still good fluking in the Inlet on spearing, sand eels and squid. A 6 3/4 lb fluke was taken by John Sidaris of Oak Beach on Sunday fishing sand eels in the Inlet. Snappers are being taken on small spearing.

BAY SHORE

Karl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** reports fluking very good the length of F.I. Inlet on the flood. Les Stevens on Friday fishing squid and sand eels at the Mosses Bridge had 18 keepers including a 6 lb 1 oz fluke. Bass being chummed under the Robert Mosses bridge though not a leap job. Some are also being chummed on bellies at the top of the flood. Snappers very good off the Bay Shore Dock on spearing. Blues very good at the Inlet in the early morning and late afternoon along with a sprinkling of weakfish. All on pencil jigs and tube teasers tied in about 3 feet up. Blues south of the Inlet in 70 feet of water fair on chum and good on the troll. These are 6-10 lb fish with trollers using Umbrellas and tubes. A few Albacore and Bonito have been taken around the Pound Nets on red and white feathers.

CAPTREE

The charterboat **Lady Ann** reports very good blues and excellent fluking on the last of the flood throughout F.I. Inlet, with the blues of course being offshore. On Friday he had 160 keeper fluke for 19 men and Friday night 200 blues for 22 fares. Saturday's score was 75 keeper blues in the rain for 18 men and 140 night blues for 39 men. The boat racked up on Sunday 245 keeper fluke for 35 men and their 4 pm bluefish trip on Sunday saw anywhere from 1-6 blues per man come over the rail. Neil advises Fire Island flukers to catch the last couple of hours of the flood. Determine the high and then add 2 hours. That will put you right on prime time. Killies working better inland of the bridge and sand eels better from the bridge on out. He is catching blues in 80' of water only an hour from the dock. The fish are spread out and moving around.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree**



Shown here left to right are: Rich Merman, Jackie Thorschmidt of Hook, Line and Sinker, Paul Gritman, the winner of the H., L. & S. Sea Robin Tournament and Bob Banks of Hook, Line and Sinker.

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SUNDAY SPECIAL — \$2. OFF ADULT FARE

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6 MAN CHARTER — ROOMY 42' WALK-AROUND
— NUNNY —
 ★ ★ ★ **FLUKE • BLUEFISH** ★ ★ ★
 Twin Diesel • All Electronics
 Capt. John — (516) 378-0126
 From Deep-Six Restaurant, Island Park

ROCKAWAY

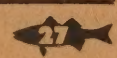
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BALLYHALE
SHARK • BASS • BLUES • FLUKE
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SPEEDY VI — COME ON DOWN

On Right Side of Dock

BLUES DAILY 7AM & 7PM

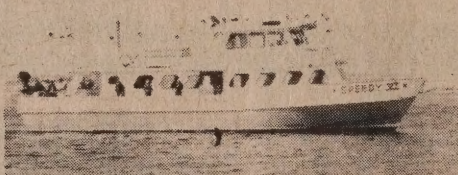
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7 AM

TACKLE
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GROUP
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BLUES
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SENIOR CITIZEN RATES WEEKDAYS!
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SHARKS OUR SPECIALTY!**

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JOSEPH

JOSEPH IV FLUKE 7 AM

JOSEPH II FLUKE 7 AM

JOSEPH I FLUKE 8 AM

★ AFTERNOON ★

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*Dates Available for Nite Bluefish
Charters and Moonlight Sails*

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LEFT SIDE OF DOCK • 516-567-2188**

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FLUKE SPECIAL —
Every Friday in Aug., 6AM/1PM
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FLUKE • BLUES • SHARK • FLUKE
★ Large and Small Charters ★

50 Ft. Twin Diesel — Full Electronics

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CAPT.

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Clean Boat — Left Side of Dock

★ INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEGINNERS ★

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FLUKE 65 FOOTER • 8AM Every Day

FLUKE Bay Fishing — Sheltered Water CAPT. ROD

A Boat you & your family can enjoy

Free Tackle • Fantastic Mates

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CAPT. RICHIE

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West Side of Captree Dock

Tackle Available • Families Accommodated

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CAPTREE

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2 TRIPS DAILY
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 ★ Instructions for Beginners ★
FREE TACKLE, BAIT INCL.
 Clean, Comfortable 65 Ft. Twin Diesel

FAMILIES ACCOMMODATED
 ★ GROUP RATES ★

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Bait • Tackle • Ice • Split Charters Available

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ROGUE II

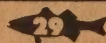
FULLY EQUIPPED 34 FOOT TWIN
 ENGINE FIBERGLASS SPORTFISHERMAN

SHARK A SPECIALTY

6 Passengers • From MORICHES INLET

—ALL OCEAN & BAY FISHING—

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FISH FIRST CLASS ON THE ALL NEW 85 FT.
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★ STARSTREAM II ★
LING & SEABASS 6:30 A.M. DAILY BIG BLUES 7 PM EVERY NIGHT**

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• ALL ALUMINUM • LATEST ELECTRONICS • LARGE SUN DECK • LOUNGE
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50' OPEN BOAT • TACKLE AVAILABLE
PCOP DECK DOCK, FREEPORT
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Queen reported that the fluke fishing is still good but has been spotty since the cold spell earlier in the week, which may have chased some of the fish up onto the flats. Average catches have been 4 to 8 fish per man with the best action at the change of tide during the last of the flood and the first of the ebb. Best area has been in the inlet from buoy 20 west. Best baits have been killies and fluke belly or sand eels when the tide is running strong, and a plain killy when the water is slack.

Capt. Bob Patafio of the charterboat **Yankee** reported having two good nights of bluefishing on Friday and Saturday fishing 3 to 4 miles south/southwest of the Fire Island artificial reef. Using bait and chum, 70 bluefish were taken on Friday night and 150 big choppers taken on Sat. night. The blues have been averaging 6 to 9 pounds. Fluke fishing was good on Sat. morning from the bridge to the inlet on the last of the flood and the first of the ebb tide.

BABYLON

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** tells of very good fluke catches all week and weekend, best between the Caost Guard Station and the mouth of the Inlet and also at Snake Hill Channel. One of his boats had 35 keepers up to 4½ lbs. This was for Andy and John. And they fished a morning tide at Snake Hill. Killies and squid are working best. Excellent bluefishing in 60-80 feet of water between the tower and Ocean Beach on Umbrellas and also for chummers at night.

Charles Fishing Station informs us that LIF staff artist Fred Gardineer had 26 keeper fluke fishing sand eels and squid fishing Wednesday in the State Channel. Arnold Brustad and sons took 28 keepers fishing East Fox Creek during the week also. Good fluke action is also at Grass Island on squid and sand eels.

Augies Bait and Tackle is submitting a possible world's record which was weighed in early this morning at Augies. It is an Atlantic big eye tuna which will be entered under the 50 lb Women's class, on 50 lb line. The fish weighed in at 199 lbs 8 oz and was caught Sunday after a 6 hour and five minute battle by 125 lb Elsie Poucell of West Islip. The fish was taken at the Canyon on rigged Balao and the fish dragged the boat 5 miles. It was caught on Joe Kaich's Cathy Queen of the Babylon Tuna Club. The BTC Tuna Invitational results were as follows: First place, Oakdale Anglers, 159½ points. Second place, Tournament Anglers, 129½ points. Third place, Bay Shore Tuna Club, 64½ points.

LINDENHURST

Charles Bait and Tackle reports very good fluking continuing from the Lighthouse to the mouth of Fire Island Inlet on killies, sand eels and squid. Great snapper action at the docks and canals on shiners. Joey G, Jr. took an 11 lb 3 oz weakfish on live snapper fishing the Inlet last week. Bud Furstenberg had a 100 lb blue shark and a load of bluefish from 8-10 lbs fishing in 85 feet of water

FREEPORT

★ BLUE FIN FLEET ★

—CHARTER BOATS AVAILABLE—

BLUE FIN—38 Pass. Max.

BLUE FINII—68 Pass. Max.

WEEKEND NITE BLUEFISH CHARTERS AVAILABLE

★ SAILING FROM MULLER'S DOCK ★

NIGHT BLUES • OPEN BOAT • BLUE FIN II

7:30 PM—Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. Nites—7:30 PM • Sails From Poop Deck Dock

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ALOMA FLEET

FLUKE • FLUKE

ON THE

ALOMA II

7 AM SAT. & SUN.

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\$12

SEABASS LING • BLACKS



ON THE

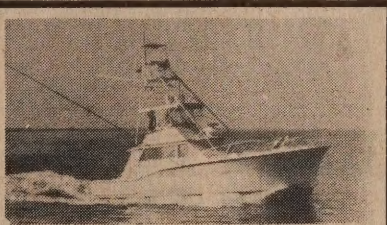
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6:30 AM DAILY

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MONSTER SHARKS
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27' Twin Engine F/G Sportfisherman

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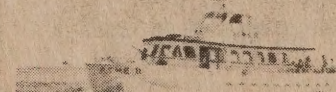
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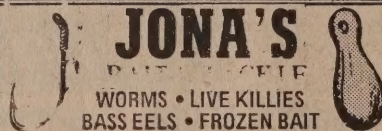
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COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports good bluefishing all week in about 80 feet of water both east and west of the inlet, trolling tubes and umbrellas and green bananas. Fluking was very good over the weekend and during the week on killies and sand eels and squid. Lots of blues and porgies at the Copiague Hole and also the beaches. Weakas and small blues at the Inlet on Ava Diamond Jigs and trolled Umbrella rigs. A lot of sand porgies at Copiague Beach. Snappers all over the place on tiny tins and shiners. Some crabs in traps at the canals.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports that on Sunday, Al Adkison of Lindenhurst had a 60½ lb hammerhead shark which he caught fishing 15 miles off Shinnecock. Herb Payne had 101 lb blue shark. Bill Beato had a 198 lb blue shark while fishing with George 30 miles off Shinnecock. They also had some Albies. Weakas at Four Corners and at the Inlet. Good bluefish action at F.I. Inlet trolling umbrellas and tubes. Fluking has improved this past weekend with few short fish. West Island, Four Corners and the State Channel are working well.

SEAFORD

Marty at Capt. Eddies Fishing Station tells us that Great Island Channel which is right outside the station to Zaks Bay, especially between the Draw Bridge at Zaks Bay has been very strong for fluke up to 5½ lbs this week. Four Corners seems to be producing on the ebb only. A few accidental weakfish are being hung. A few stripers on bellies at the bridge and on eels also. But a slow pick.

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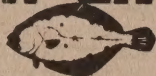
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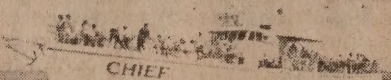
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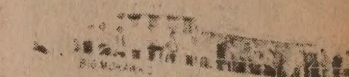
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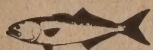
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Merrick Marine Supplies reports very good bluefish action in 45' of water west of Jones Inlet on S & G. Banana Split Lures (brand new) and also on S & G tubes. Fish are mixed sizes. Blues also at Choleria with the night boats doing good with chum, fish 10-12 lbs. The fluking is spotty with sand eels and squid your best bet. Plenty of small snappers around for the kids. Lots of yellow fin tuna and some blue fin tuna at the Canyon. Small tuna south of the Mud Hole. Some stripers being taken on Silver Creek chubs in the back and a few on chum.

MERRICK

Jimmy at Nicks Fishing Station reports good fluking most of the days of this past week and weekend with Haunts Creek and Broad Creek producing superbly. Ed and Helen Pretakewicz of Flushing had 42 keepers on Friday and 31 keepers on Sunday fishing killies only. Catches of 40, 18 and 25 keepers were typical with several 3½ lb fish amongst them. Lots of snappers all over. Small blues outside the inlet in 40 feet of water hitting everything, fish up to 6 pounds. John DeMino had a small football tuna fishing 40 miles due south on a black and white feather. Frank said there were various schools of tuna out there.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports plenty of blues about 3 miles off the beach on umbrellas. Jim Johnson put buddy Jerry Kircher into a 90 lb Mako this week. Fluking good in Reynolds Channel on killies and squid. Crabs are around now. Porgies in Reynolds Channel at buoy 17 on clam. Weakfish at the Meadowbrook Piling on drifted in sand worms.



Fred Welge, 12, is shown here with his first bass of 39 lbs. 8 oz., taken drifting eels in Moriches Inlet.

HELEN M

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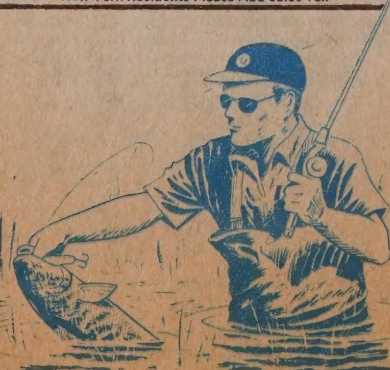
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N.Y. BIGHT
Fishing Report

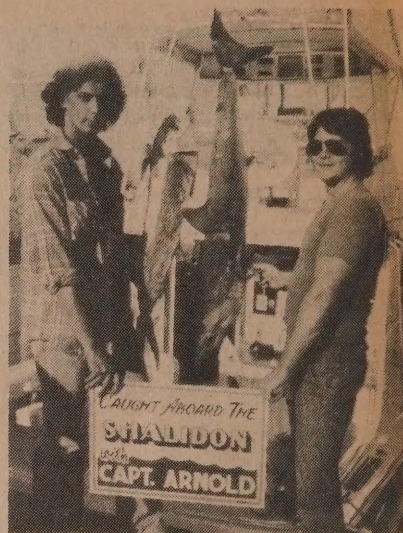
FREEPORT

Franks Marine and Fishing Station reports that Kathy Burns of Freeport on one of his boats took a 5 lb fluke fishing High Flats Drain on Sunday with killie and squid bait. General fluking activity is good, with 6-8 fish per man with Swift Creek and High Flats Drain producing.

Hook Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle reports blues from the Inlet to 2 miles out on umbrellas and green bananas. Paul Gritman of Oceanside took 25 schoolie bass from 8-10 lbs trolling along the Jones Beach jetty using umbrellas with green, white and black tubes. This was early Friday morning. Fluke at Long Creek and at Reynolds Channel on killies and squid. Snappers are very good. Bob says to be sure to sign up for the stores Bergall Tournament being held Aug. 13 and 14. A \$25 rod and reel is the prize.

Hudson Point Fishing Station tells us that Jeff Squeri of Flushing took a 220 lb Mako on Saturday in 70' of water. Gary Corwin and Jimmy Crower took 22 bluefish, 7 bass and 6 weaks fishing Jones Inlet on Sunday morning with a combination of jigs, umbrellas, and live eels.

Capt. Joe Long of the charterboat **Nite Owl** called to tell us that his Saturday charter insisted on going for tuna. The man was a Korean and his two buddies were also Korean and Joe advised them to pray to their God and Joe would pray to his for tuna as they were not the best bet for the day. Joe churned out in the rain to the HA where he found birds, biat and whales. With two 9/0 outfits in the holders, both lines



Shown here are Kevin Davidson of Garden City Park and his dolphin of 11 lbs., and Ray Sensale of Mineola with his 40 lb. mako. Both fish were taken aboard Captain Arnold's "Shalidon" in 125 feet of water south of Jones Inlet. Notice the hand coming out of the shark's mouth.

suddenly were hit. One was a break off but the other rig was hit by a 335 lb big eye tuna. This was for Tony Kim and party. The Koreans took it all very matter-of-factly, figuring if you charter for tuna, it's a sure thing you'll get one. Joe assured them that they have a powerful fishing prayer and they should package and sell it.

The **Capt. Lou II** reports pretty good fluking all week with Wednesday a bonanza with a Queens man dragging a 10 1/4 lb fluke. A couple of stray bass and weakfish were also picked up. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday saw very good fluking with keepers from 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 lbs. This was all on squid, killies, and sand eels.

The **Starstream II** reports excellent bottom fishing days on giant ling with some cod and seabass sprinkled in. Loads of fish, says Richie with high catches every day. Night blues, while running hot and cold, are still putting good numbers of blues on the boat, 75, 90, 150, 350, etc. Night blue trips should be planned anywhere from a Monday to Thursday nights to fish in the most comfort.

The **Capt. Hall** reported a slow steady pick all week with Sunday showing a bit of an upswing in the volume of fluke.

The **Capt. Al** reports that they loaded up on blues on bananas Sunday at the Mud Hole. Al is now bluefishing 6:30 am and 7 pm daily. The half day fluke trips on the **Capt. II** has been producing well, fishing the inshorew Creeks and channels.

The **Aloma** reports on Saturday 8 fares had 5-8 fluke per man, fish up to 3 lbs. Sunday was a pick anywhere up to 5 fish per man all in local areas. The **Aloma** still does very well on big ling and there are more seabass in the catch now in the half pound variety.

Charter boat **SEA HAWK** called to say



Capt. Joe Long (r) and mate Jiggs with 335 lb. Atlantic Big Eye tuna caught by Tony Kim and party aboard the Freeport charterboat "Nite Owl" this past Saturday.

that he fished 25 miles due south of the inlet bagging 5 brown shark on light tackle and a few blue shark on Sunday fishing 30 pound class tackle. A couple of private boats had 60 and 80 bluefish trolling just outside the inlet with umbrellas and bananas.

POINT LOOKOUT

The **Marie III** DID A BANG UP JOB on sea bass at local wrecks and topped off the bags with weaks and blues trolled in 40 to 60 feet of water south/southeast of Jones Inlet. These fish were on top early in the morning but wire line must be used. When the sun rises if you find the right area, you can pick up weaks and bass mixed with blues.

Ed's Fishing Station reports that fluke fishing has picked up within the last 4 or 5 days at the Loop Parkway Bridge in Reynolds Channel and also in the flats. Some nice sized fish are coming in and the majority of fish taken are keepers. The Meadowbrook Bridge is producing plenty of blacks along with sea bass and porgies. A few school bass are being taken on clams at the west bar in the flats. The area is plentiful with snappers.

Scotty's Marina reports that there are plenty of fluke in the bay. Paul Kleinlout took a 7 lb. fluke in the inlet on a sand eel. Bluefish from 1½ to 2 pounds are being taken in the inlet on umbrellas. Snappers are showing and there are plenty of them and blue claw crabs can be had in the back bays.

ISLAND PARK

The **Commodore** reports better fluking this week fishing between the Pt. Lookout bridge to the long Beach bridge. On Saturday there were 5-6 keepers per man. Sunday's catch was over 200 keepers on the boat, 4-5 keeper fluke per man. The draggers are getting some fluke also now, which means there will be fluke fishing in the ocean shortly. Seabass on some inshore pieces this week too, on clam and squid. Better signs of fish coming in. Lots of big blues being trolled just outside Jones Inlet on umbrellas.

Beckmann's Tackle reports that wire lining Bingle Gorilla rigs in the inlets is producing blues from 5 to 14 pounds with the average catch of 50 to 60 per boat. These fish are being taken in 30 to 60 feet of water. Snappers are all over the area but are small, averaging 5 to 6 inches. Crabbing is coming along and they are being taken at Ocean Side Creek. Fluke fishing has remained the same and there are plenty of porgies in the area and they are being taken on worms.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the **KIM** reports shark fishing is up and down; for example 15 shark on Thurs. 2 shark on Sun. working the same area. Loads of weaks mixed with bass and blues fishing the tin can and also between the channels with Ronnie trolling wire and Lupo umbrellas. On Sunday Ronnie says that a Navy destroyer was bearing down



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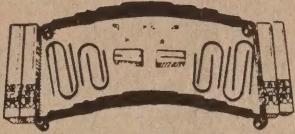
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on them and not until it was about 500 yards away did he realize that he had an orange float on top of his tower, part of his harpoon gear. Being the international distress signal, the Navy was coming to the rescue. Ronnie took the float down pronto and the destroyer veered off.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that snappers are all over the bay and can be had on spearing bait. Porgy fishing is

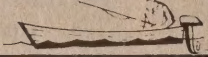
good at the South Channel Bridge on worms. Bass are still being taken at night at the North and South Channel Bridges. Weakfish are being taken at the bridges on sandworms. The blue claw crabs are around but the action is not hot yet.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Ray of the **Helen H** informs us the bluefishing was good all week, on both day and night runs. Al, a regular had 25 choppers on Sunday's day trip. Pools

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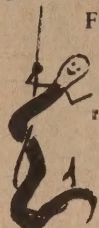
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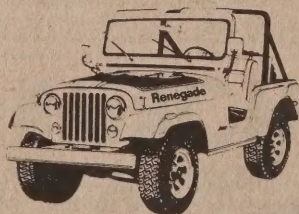
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Ira, Glen and Seth Kanarack of Manhattan with their catch of 12 bass aboard the "Kim". The fish were caught at buoybreak on white Danny plugs at buoys 10 and 12 in Ambrose Channel.

usually go to fish in the 15 lb category. Average catches are 5 per man with an experienced hand bagging more fish. Diamond jigs and bananas are working best during the day while the night trips are producing on chum. And only a few fish are being taken on bananas. Some weaks are mixed in with the blues, as are a few bonito. A few tuna were sighted during the week. Monday thru Friday they fished southeast of the Klondike, but Sunday the fish had moved in closer, about 1 3/4 hours from the dock. The blues are from 5 - 10 lbs average.

The Dorothy B reports very good fluking in the channels and off Sandy Hook State Park. Capt. Kevin says the fishing has improved greatly this past week with good fishermen boating 8 - 12 keepers per man. This week's tournament fish is a 5 pounder. Many 4 and 5 pounders were taken Sunday and the picture has definitely improved. They are using spearing, sand eels and smelts. The evening bluefish trips are averaging 3 fish per man on Wednesday night, 5 fish per man on Friday per man with Saturday night being poor due to the full moon. Big weaks are mixed into these catches.

The Blue Sea III reports the biggest kind of bluefish on Friday and Saturday night on bananas. Their daytime fluke trips have been much improved this week.

The Pilot II has been enjoying good porgy and blackfish action with very good catches consisting mainly of porgies.

The Enterprise reports blue fish catches on both day and night trips.

Joey Lauro at Stella Maris Bait and Tackle reports good weakfishing on the black side of Ambrose on s 9 g Banana Splits in green and also Diamond jigs. Lots of blues on the open boats fishing



Joe Samartano, Angelo LaBrocca and Frank Casillo took these 12 weakfish from seven to eight pounds and nine bluefish, from two to three pounds at Buoy 21-VZ. Bridge. Photo courtesy of Santos Sport Shop.

from Seabrite to Klondike on jigs and green bananas. Porgies at the Tin Can on worms and clam and stripers at the Tin Can on umbrellas. Fluking picking up at Ambrose, Coney Island and Reis Park. Lots of snappers in the bay.

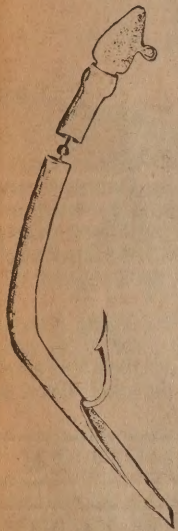
STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop said that the best action this week is from the surf at the Berger Ave storm sewers and at South Beach with monster blues from 8 to 15 pounds being taken on cut bait especially bunker. Some bass and weakfish are mixed in with these choppers. The best times to fish are the last two hours of the outgoing and the first two hours of incoming tide. Snapper fishing is plentiful along the Staten Island shoreline. Great Kills Harbor seems to be producing the best. Sand porgies and lafayettes are plentiful in the area. Princess Bay is producing a mixed bag of bluefish from 2 to 3 pounds and weaks from 3 to 5 pounds. Can 21 at the VZ Bridge is producing weakfish from 6 to 8 pounds worming the outgoing tide. Great Kills harbor is showing some small blue claws and the crabbing in general has been slow.



Lou Alnino, Mike Lattoraca and Tom Magui, all of New Jersey with their catch of about 40 fluke taken trolling the flats. Photo courtesy of Ed's Fishing Station, Pt. Lookout.

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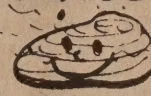


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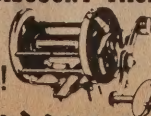
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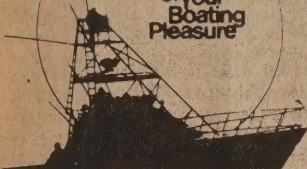
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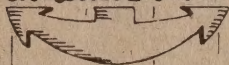
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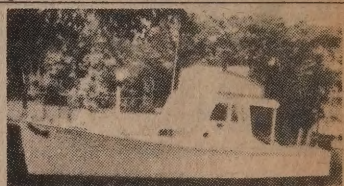
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ROCKY POINT

The Rocky Pt. Fishing Stop reports that blues are hitting the beaches at night and are running from 2½ to 6 pounds. These fish are hitting Hopkins, Kastmasters and plugs. Buoys 9 and 11 are still producing blues and weaks. Good quality fluke fishing can be had in this area with fish running from 4 to 6 pounds with an occasional 8 pounder. Porgies and snappers are all over. On Sat. morning bass from 15 to 23 pounds were being taken at Roanoke Pt. on sandworms and live eels.

SELDEN

Ken Freeman of Angler's Den reports bluefish taking umbrellas and diamond jigs at buoys 11, 9 and 7. The fish are not hitting too readily, so you must work for them. On Wednesday, Fred Kaye took 100 blues from 2 to 12 pounds fishing north of buoy 9. Sharpies are taking weakfish in the evenings drifting sandworms in this area. Dick Pastman took a fluke of 6 pounds 6 ounces with sand eels at buoy 9. Snappers are wall to wall in the sound and Cedar Beach is producing fluke from the shore on snappers, sand eels, spearing and squid combos. Ken has heard word that large bass are being taken from the Rocky Pt. to Shoreham shores at night on live eels. The results for the Angler's Den June Derby are as follows: Joe Londner with an 8 lb. 9 oz. fluke; R. Kunkel with a 14 lb. 12 oz. bluefish; Walter Yackel with a 9 lb. 4 oz. weakfish; and G. Grosselfinger with a 48 lb. striped bass.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Dick's Sporting Goods reports that John and Frank Rahl of Florida trolled a 10 and 14 lb. bluefish on red Tri-Fin surg. tubes and Pulsating Pussycats off buoy 9. Porgies are still good with worms from the beaches and snapper fishing is good with spearing.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that porgies can be caught straight outside the harbor on worms and skimmer clams averaging about 1 pound. Fluke are being taken at buoy 9 drifting squid and sand eels. Trolling in this area was difficult this weekend because of the amount of boat traffic.

PORT JEFFERSON

Carafits Fishing station reported the blue fishing slowed down over the weekend. The fish are still around but they moved into different areas. Last Sunday fish were taken at Cedar Beach instead of buoys 9 and 11. No bass to speak of. Fluke fishing is fair at Mt. Misery Shoal.

KINGS PARK

Bob at Mae's Way Fishing Station reports a rather disappointing weekend overall. Bluefish remain scattered and hard to find likewise with the weakfish and fluke. Even the porgies were a slow pick. There were a few school stripers taken by those who worked very hard for them and snappers were everywhere taken on anything. On Saturday Bernie Vitterino took 18 fluke to 4 pounds fishing Cranes Neck with squid strips and sand eel bait.

NORTHPORT

Tom at Bowman's sporting Goods reported John Atuzzio and Murray Mac caught 11 blues averaging 4 lbs on umbrella rigs last Sunday off Eaton's Neck Light. To locate the blues most fellows are starting off Lilco and are trolling their way to Port Jeff. No bigger blues in the harbor, but snappers are sure around. No weakfish weighed in last week. Shore casters are having tough going. Bass fishing is very poor. Most people got a skunking for their evening's troll. Further inshore, there are porgies and snappers off the town dock. Fluke are off Lloyd's Neck, but don't expect them to jump in the boat.

Eric Hall and his son-in-law with a 7-1/2 lb. fluke caught off Eaton's Neck. Photo courtesy of Bowman's Sport Shop.

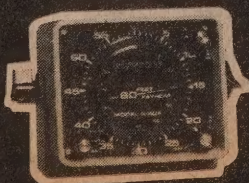
JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center reported blues taken in the sound. Watch for the birds then troll umbrella rigs or tubes on wire lines in the area. Bass pickings are lean. Plenty of snapper blues and porgies.

Jamesport Bait and Tackle reports that porgies are plentiful throughout the sound and bay and are taking clams, sandworms and bloodworms. The porgies in the sound are running up to 2 pounds and the bay fish are smaller. Fluke are running 2 to 6 pounds at Truman's Beach and are taking sand eels. Bluefishing has been spotty on both sides. Blues from 1 to 4 pounds are in the sound and all you want can be taken on umbrellas and most tubing. Snappers are all over the docks and

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Bridgewater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETTS POINT		BRIDGEPORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
MON	12:31	1:03	12:42	1:13	12:38	1:13	1:29	2:03	3:33	4:02	3:20	3:46	—	12:19	8/4
TUE	12:31	1:03	1:32	2:06	1:26	1:58	1:27	2:55	4:21	4:50	4:10	4:36	12:37	1:07	8/5
WED	1:22	1:56	2:23	2:59	2:13	2:45	2:14	3:42	5:16	5:46	5:02	5:29	1:23	1:54	8/6
THUR	2:17	2:52	3:16	3:56	3:02	3:36	3:17	4:49	6:30	6:56	5:57	6:22	2:12	2:43	8/7
FRI	3:13	3:46	4:15	4:51	3:54	4:30	3:54	5:42	7:39	7:58	6:55	7:19	3:06	3:37	8/8
SAT	4:10	4:41	5:13	5:43	4:55	5:26	4:11	6:30	8:38	8:54	7:53	8:13	4:05	4:35	8/9
SUN	5:05	5:31	6:06	6:33	5:55	6:18	5:01	7:15	9:31	9:42	8:46	9:05	5:06	5:36	8/10
MON	5:53	6:16	6:54	7:18	6:47	7:06	5:46	7:57	10:16	10:24	9:37	9:53	6:02	6:20	8/11

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area's station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet —0:50 is listed under On SANDY HOOK. —0:50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0:27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0:01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+0:48
Long Branch	—0:34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0:18
Shark River Basin	+0:27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0:12
Seaside Park	—0:33
Manaloking Bridge	+0:34
TOMAS RIVER	+0:37
Warehous	—0:23
BARNEGAT LIGHT	+0:30
Manahawkin Bridge	+0:33
Beach Haven	+0:47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0:01
Seven Islands	+0:12
Graveling Point	+0:05
Mullica River	+0:55
Grassy Bay	+0:08
ABSECON INLET	+0:14
Atlantic City Pier	—0:26
GI. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0:12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0:46
COORSON INLET	+0:09
TOWNSEND INLET	+0:08
HEREFORD INLET	+0:02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0:45
Cape May Harbor	—0:02
Rehoboth Beach	—0:07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0:14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0:50
Shinnecock Bay	+1:25
East Quogue	+2:45
Shinnecock Canal	+1:18
Indian Reservation	+3:05
MORRIS INLET	—0:56
Smith's Point	+1:25
Harts Cove	+1:30
Potomac Point	+3:35
Mastic Beach	—0:38
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0:38
Democrat Point	—0:38
Coast Guard Station	—0:19
Fire Island Light	—0:47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	—0:14
Sayville	+3:39
Hickscher State Pk.	+3:20
Bay Shore	+2:23
Babylon	+2:12
Amityville	+2:21
JONES INLET	—0:19
Zachs Bay	+1:25
Seaford Harbor	+2:05
Freeport Creek	+0:34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0:06
Long Beach Bridge	—0:19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0:00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0:38
JFK Airport	+0:26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0:08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0:08
Bayville Bridge	+0:13
Eatons Neck Point	+0:03
Northport Bay	+0:03
Norwalk Islands	+0:10
Smithtown Bay	—0:03
Crane Neck Point	+0:05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0:03
New Haven Harbor	+0:08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0:08
Herod Point	—0:07
Mattituck Inlet	+0:19
Horton Point	—0:20
Truman Beach	—0:42
Falkner Island	—0:13
Sachem Head	—0:10
Brantford Harbor	—0:07
New Haven Harbor	—0:08
Millford Harbor	—0:07
Stratford	—0:27
Shelton	+1:36
Black Rock Harbor	—0:03
Saugatuck River	—0:01
South Norwalk	+0:10
Greens Ledge	—0:01
Stamford	+0:04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0:06
Greenwich	+0:02

On WILLETTS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0:10
Execution Light	—0:06
Manhasset Bay	—0:01
Hempstead Harbor	—0:11
City Island	—0:03
Rye Beach	—0:28
Port Chester	—0:09
Mamaroneck	—0:08
New Rochelle	—0:24
David's Island	—0:02

SUNRISE/SUNSET

8/4	5:56	8:15
8/9	6:01	8:09
8/14	6:06	8:02
8/19	6:12	7:55
8/24	6:17	7:47
8/29	6:22	7:39

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr	FULL	2nd Qtr
8/14	8/22	8/28	8/6

The Original Knight SOLAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM	PM	Minor	Major
THURS.	9:30	3:40	9:50	4:05
FRI.	10:20	4:30	10:40	5:45
SAT.	11:10	5:20	11:30	5:45
SUN.	11:55	6:00	—	6:25
MON.	12:10	6:45	12:40	7:10
TUES.	12:55	7:30	1:25	7:55
WED.	1:40	8:10	2:10	8:30
THURS.	2:20	8:55	2:50	9:20

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0:27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0:12
Greenport	+0:04
Southold	+1:43
New Suffolk	+2:26
South Jamesport	+2:32
Shinnecock Canal	+2:33
Noyack Bay	+2:05
Sag Harbor	+0:59
Gardiners Bay	+0:21
Promised Land	—0:14
Montauk Inlet	—0:25
Montauk Point	—0:13
Niantic	+1:20
Stonington	—0:33
Noank, Mystic River	—0:23
THAMES RIVER	—0:01
Smith Cove	—0:01
Norwich	+0:09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	+1:10
Saybrook Jetty	+1:24
Lyme	+1:38
Essex	+2:41
East Haddam	+2:41
Higganum Creek	+2:54

On NEWPORT

Jersey City	+0:07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0:46
Spytun Duuyil	+0:58
Ossining	+1:53
Peekskill	+2:24
West Point	+3:16
Newburg	+3:42

Sakonnet	—0:10
Ticket	+0:21
Beaverfall Point	—0:02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0:10
Bristol	+0:10
Warren	+0:21
Nayatt Point	+0:12
Pawlicket	+0:21
East Greenwich	+0:16
Wickford	+0:12
Narragansett Pier	—0:08
Point Judith Harbor	—0:07
Block Island	+0:05
Great Salt Pond	+0:05
Old Harbor	—0:14
Watch Hill Point	+0:44

Carl Fusaro of Huntington Station took this 33 lb striper worm trolling in Cold Spring Harbor. Photo courtesy of RONNIE'S BAIT AND TACKLE.

Chain Locker reports fishing has finally broken loose, other than on Sunday when the sound looks like the L.I. Expressway. Fluking at buoy 13 was excellent. On Thursday, John Kosoff of Huntington landed a 7 lb and a 10 lb fluke. They are being caught off the western side of the neck on live snappers. The snappers seem to be the best bait from Diamond Pt. to buoy 9. Blues have been hitting the beach every morning up until Sunday and are taking plugs, due to newly arrived bunker schools on the east side of Eaton's Neck. Bunker chunkers have been scoring well. Geoff Wendt of Northport scored well in midday with 21 blues up to 7 lbs on Friday. Weaks are thick from Diamond Pt. into Cold Spring Harbor and are hitting everything from Salty Dogs to squid and worms that are meant for bass. Bass are being chummed on clam in the Rip off Eaton's Neck, plugged and wormed off most rocky shores around Lloyd's Neck, Eaton's Neck and the brickyard. Porgies and snappers are everywhere and the weekly snapper derby will begin this week. The staff at Chain Locker and us at LIF all wish owner Artie Levine a speedy recovery from his recent illness and hospitalization.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine at Four Winds Tackle reports that John Ambrosio and his son Eric fished the rips off Eatons Neck for 3 days with clam chum and totaled 94 bass to 14 pounds for their hard work. Fluke fishing has been the best of the season with many fish running 6 to 9 pounds taken at Lloyd and Eatons Neck on sand eel, spearing and squid. Weakfish are still holding up and can be had by trolling and jigging during daylight and on worms after dark. These fish are averaging 5 to 9 pounds. Humpback porgies up to 2½ pounds are being caught at buoy 2 off Lloyd Pt. on worms. Dennis Farrell and Bob Haverkamp came in for live eels on Friday and a few hours later they came back with a 47½ lb. bass taken off Cedar Beach.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports that bass are being taken at Eatons Neck to 16 pounds on clam chum and bait. Large porgies are being taken at Eatons on clam and sand worms. The fish are

ranging anywhere from ¾ to 2 pounds. Weakfishing is good at Lloyd Pt. with small blues mixed in trolling black umbrellas. Weakfish are also being taken on diamond jigs, pink Mr. Twisters, live snappers and drifting sandworms. Large fluke are being taken at Lloyd and Eatons Neck drifting sand eels, spearing and squid. Trollers are also taking some fluke on umbrellas.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported porgie fishing good at all the usual spots. Find a school of bunker and there should be some big blues underneath them. School bass around but no biggies. Snapper blues are around by the thousand.

GROTON

Captain Brad Glas of the Hel Cat reported very good fluke fishing during all of last week. Most fares got the fish they wanted and some took home some real jumbos. Big fish of the week was a ten pound, twelver oz. doormat by Armando Medina of Ledyard.



Jim Micco with a 50 lb 2 oz striped bass caught at Marshall Fields while trolling live eels.



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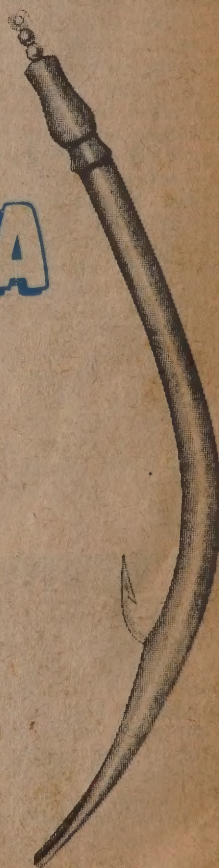
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